Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-006
Monday
11 January 1993

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FBIS-LAT-93-006 *11 January 1993*

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Cuba

Commentary on Iraq, Removal of Missiles

FL0901174293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 Jan 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] At this moment, it is late in the afternoon in Iraq and the tense situation remains unchanged since last night, when the Iraqi authorities rejected the ultimatum given by the United States and its Security Council allies. In the ultimatum, they gave the government of Baghdad until midnight to withdraw its anti-aircraft missiles, which were installed in the southern region of the country, to north of the 32d parallel.

Some reports state that Iraq has already begun to move its anti-aircraft installations, but there still has been no confirmation from Iraq. Nevertheless, I must say that at least two news agencies, based on Pentagon and White House sources, reported just minutes ago that Baghdad has decided to withdraw or move its anti-aircraft missiles, SA-2 and SA-3 [surface-to-air], to just north of the 32d parallel. This is what the news agencies state, but I must reiterate that there has been no confirmation from Iraqi sources. It seems hese reports were obtained after analyzing surveillance from spy satellites.

Last night, Yoshio Hatano, president of the Security Council for this month and who is from Japan, warned Iraq that noncompliance with its obligations could result in serious consequences for them. So far, four of the five permanent members of the Security Council, namely the United States, France, Great Britain, and Russia, have seconded the ultimatum against Iraq. As of yet, China has not declared itself in favor.

Looking at things from this perspective, as they are presented to international public opinion, it would seem that Iraq has established its anti-aircraft defenses in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or in nearby Arab countries. In other words, outside of its territory, therefore violating its commitments. The fact is that Iraq has mobilized its defenses inside its boundaries, where according to the UN Charter each country is sovereign. On the other hand, according to international laws, if someone threatens with reprisals for measures that a country adopts within its own territory and that do not threaten the security of its neighboring nations, he is obviously committing an act of interference.

International laws tend to have a slanted interpretation when they are being applied by powerful nations. On the request of the United States on 27 August of 1992, Iraq was prohibited to fly south of the 32d parallel, which is inside its own territory. Based on that decision, it is estimated that Iraq violated its obligations by placing its anti-aircraft defenses in that zone, which I reiterate is their own territory.

The four of the Security Council contend that that decision was taken to protect the Shi'ites. In this way, things would seem that they were advancing towards a situation similar to the one that occurred two years ago when the Gulf War broke out. Undoubtedly, there are important differences.

Back then, two years ago Iraq occupied Kuwait, a sovereign state recognized by the United Nations and a member of the Nonaligned Movement, thus creating a pretext, almost on a silver platter, so that Washington would decide to attack and then demand the endorsement of the Security Council once the act was carried out.

This time, Iraq, who just last week lost an airplane within its territory because it flew over the zone that is prohibited to the Iraqis, decided to install anti-aircraft missiles not in a foreign country—I repeat—but within its own territory, unless the Security Council, specifically the four, considers that another country was formed south of the 32d parallel.

Until these questions are cleared up, tension prevails in this zone. Even though many tend to believe that this time there will not be a bloodbath, it seems that this time it is about a mobilization of U.S. forces at the end of defeated President Bush's mandate.

Commentary Views 'Distorted' U.S. Media

PA0901134993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Joaquin Santana commentary]

[Text] It is evident U.S. media coverage of Cuba in the past few years was characterized by a display of distorted reports on human rights on the island and on the difficult situation facing the largest of the Antillean islands.

The human rights issue reached an unusual high in the mid-80's with a number of diplomatic and propaganda actions seeking to apply pressure on and attempting to sit Cuba in the defendant's seat before various international forums.

The most important U.S. newspapers have dedicated disproportionate and unusual space to the alleged human rights violations in Cuba that include false charges of physical torture in prisons and reports that inflate considerably the size of the prison population on the island.

The U.S. media were thus making their contribution to the White House's aggressive strategy. A considerable number of stories were dedicated to certain counterrevolutionary prisoners who, in many instances, were attributed merits that were in truth nonexistent. That was the case of the show orchestrated around Armando Balladares, the former policeman of the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who was neither a politician nor a poet, as was later demonstrated.

At any rate, the powerful U.S. media followed the line of their government and the prevailing portrayal of Cuba in that country's news reports was that of a dantesque microcosm where not even the basic rights of human beings are respected.

As for reports on the Cuban economy, it is not unusual to find that most reports in the U.S. media of the 1980's focused on the island's mistakes and economic problems. In this regard, the huge media at the service of Washington have dedicated more space and time to the Cuban situation since 1989 as the difficulties that led to the establishment of a special period have mounted.

The U.S. media have made this kind of report a priority when referring to alternative projects for the Cuban economy, because they serve as arguments to reportedly demonstrate the superiority of the capitalist system over ours and reaffirm its advocacy for changes in Cuba, which if not produced, according to its presumptions, would lead it to the same path of the other countries of the extinct socialist bloc.

As a result of this information policy, it is logical to find in U.S. newspapers reports on the difficulties facing the Cuban people to reinforce the image of poverty to suggest a social explosion is about to take place on the island. Of course, U.S. journalists do not refer to the iron-clad blockade maintained by the United States against Cuba since the revolutionary triumph in 1959 and its consequences.

The owners of world information do not use their powerful media to report how in Cuba—although it seems impossible—every child attends school; public health continues to be a right of all citizens; and, amid the special period, Cubans are strengthening their democratic system through the current general elections.

The U.S. media, of course, do not report the opinion of sectors that admit Cuba is developing and surviving, and that despite the major efforts of the White House to isolate us from the world, there are increasingly more world peoples each day who see hope for a better life in the Cuban project.

Commentator Says Radio Stations Resume Propaganda

PA0901182393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The radio stations, which broadcast from Miami to Cuba for the purpose of ideologically subverting Cubans on the island, resumed their attacks over the past few days with the worn-out topic that Cuba is participating in drug-related activities. It is interesting to note that these radio stations focus so much on Cuba, ignoring the current reality in the United States, which is the largest market for drugs in the world. These radio stations are not interested in fighting this scourge. Their real goal is to convince potential listeners that ranking Cuban Government officials are promoting drug trafficking activities from South America to the United States.

It is not easy, however, to confuse Cubans, who know of the government's efforts to fight drug traffickers who try to enter Cuban territorial waters and airspace. They are also wise to the U.S. efforts to implicate Cuba in drug trafficking activities, seeking to undermine Cuba's policy of promoting mixed enterprises. Evidence shows it to be a U.S. attempt to infiltrate suspicious people into Cuba.

The Mexican publication EL FINANCIERO reported in 1992 that Washington would be staging covert operations in Cuba, using alleged businessmen seeking to invest in Cuba but who are actually trying to launder drug trafficking money. The publication noted that, rather than alert the Cuban Government, the White House seeks to use the mechanisms of the money launderers and to stimulate such procedures to get new ammunition for its propaganda war against Cuba.

Certainly, Cuban authorities are especially alert to this U.S. attempt to undermine their policy of promoting foreign investment to obtain financing and technology. The Cuban Government would never participate in any business that would endanger the country's security and credibility. All this anti-Cuban propaganda will not deter us from our determination to join every serious effort in the Caribbean to eliminate this scourge, of which Cuba is free.

Relations With Mexico, Canada To Remain 'Normal'

PA1101011593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1425 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Madrid, 10 Jan (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said on 10 January that Mexico and Canada will continue normal relations with Cuba, despite the North American Free Trade Agreement, which they signed with the United States.

He added: "I see no reason why Mexico and Canada should abandon their friendship with Cuba. The treaty was signed by three countries, two of which are important Cuban commercial partners, and the third being our main adversary. Both Mexico and Canada have assured us that the treaty will not affect third countries."

Ricardo Alarcon arrived at Madrid-Barajas Airport from Havana to participate on 11 January in a ceremony during which Spain will transfer to Brazil the provisional Secretariat for the next Ibero-American Summit, which will take place in July in the Brazilian city of Salvador de Bahia.

That Secretariat, created after the first Ibero-American Summit held in the Mexican city of Guadalajara in 1991—and which has been located in Spain since March 1992—is in charge of coordinating the work carried out

by the group and ensuring compliance with the agreements reached during the summits of the heads of state and government.

Alarcon said: "The summit in Salvador de Bahia will be an excellent opportunity to seek tangible results for Latin American integration, a common goal shared by all our countries, but one that is developing very slowly due to the lack of specific actions."

Regarding the meeting scheduled to begin in Madrid on 11 January, Alarcon said: "It will be a good opportunity to listen to the reports prepared by Spain on everything that has been done since the last summit held here."

According to Alarcon, "there will be no recommendations or specific agreements until the next preparatory meetings" for the Third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The foreign ministers of Spain and Brazil—as the outgoing and incoming secretaries—are expected to deliver speeches at the 11 January meeting, following a meeting of the Coordinating Group formed by Spain, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina.

Also scheduled to speak are the Bolivian representative, who will report on the situation of the Indian Development Fund, and the Guatemalan representative, who will inform his counterparts of the preparations for the Summit on Thoughts [Cumbre del Pensamiento], to be held in April in Antigua, Guatemala.

Brazilian Delegation Meets With Escalona, Alarcon

FL0801152393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] On 7 January in Havana, Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government met with a delegation from the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, which has been visiting our country since 4 January. The group is headed by Waldir Pires, Chamber of Deputies vice president [title as heard], and is made up of Pires and eight other deputies. During the meeting, the visitors expressed an interest in and were given details on, among other things, the modifications that have been made to the Constitution of the Republic, the new electoral law, the elections, tourism, and how the nation's trade has been affected by the U.S. embargo.

The subject of the elections was amply discussed. The visitors were briefed on the election of the 13,865 delegates to the municipal assemblies on 20 and 27 December; on how the municipal assemblies are going to be formed on 10 January; and on the election of delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies to the national assembly on 24 February.

At the end of the meeting, we chatted with Mr. Pires, who made some statements regarding his visit to Cuba. [passage omitted] The Brazilian delegation also met with Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon and visited the genetic-biotechnology center and the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital. They will also tour places of economic interest in Havana Province and the tourist hub in Varadero. The Brazilians visit will last until 9 January and on 10 January they will return to Brazil.

Meets With Fidel Castro

FL0901175293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with the delegation of Brazilian deputies, headed by Waldir Pires, Brazilian Chamber of Deputies vice president, which is visiting Cuba. According to a report in today's GRANMA newspaper, the meeting was held in a climate of friendship and mutual respect. They conversed on the state of bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as on other issues of interest in the Latin American sphere and the world in general.

In the same manner, President Fidel Castro held a friendly meeting with members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, who held an extensive program on the occasion of their 15th anniversary. Headed by their coordinator Andres Gomez, the brigadiers from Miami and New York made evident their decision to continue strengthening and expanding the important work they carry out in defense of their fatherland and the Cuban Revolution.

Politburo, PCC, Military Officials Attend Ceremony

FL0801202393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The mountains surrounding Santiago de Cuba are in our hearts because they are a symbol of the courage of Santiago's people. As Fidel said: Thank you, Santiago, for being so extraordinarily revolutionary. These were the words of Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer at a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Dr. Joaquin Castillo Duanes Military Teaching Hospital. The ceremony was held on 7 January in Santiago de Cuba.

During the ceremony, which was also attended by Esteban Lazo, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Santiago de Cuba, and Division General Ramon Espinosa, the chief of the Eastern Army, a group of officers and civilian workers were given the Revolutionary Armed Forces Exemplary Service Medal.

This hospital was dedicated by Army General Raul Castro on 7 January 1963 and it is the only one in Cuba which has the health sector's moral work center award.

Pedro Ross Addresses Agricultural Workers Plenum

FL0801174793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Commentary by reporter Diosdado Maso on the second plenum of the Agricultural-Livestock and Forestry Workers Union]

[Text] [Maso] We were talking about the special remarks that Agriculture Minister Carlos Perez made at the plenum. I was saying that Carlos had announced that in 1992, we had reached 35 million quintals of vegetables and tubers.

Yesterday, when Carlos said that, I remembered a remark made by Edicto Rousseaux, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of a Blas Rocas plantain brigade in Guines. Rousseaux said they had conducted a survey on the amount of plantains that actually reached the population. In the survey, they determined that out of all the plantains that were distributed to homes in Havana only 60 percent reached the consumer. In other words, more than 40 percent was lost. This 40 percent is lost because of the improper handling it receives during its distribution on the trucks of the collection centers. Part of the loss is caused by plantains being left behind. Others are spoiled and cannot be consumed. Furthermore, in the case of the plantains, the damage to the skin is also included. That is why, when the minister said we were going to reach 35 million quintals, I said we must consider how many quintals out of those 35 million will be considered as a wastage or as a loss.

[Announcer] In other words, out of those 35 million quintals how much will the population actually receive?

[Maso] Exactly. That is why, when some people hear us journalists give a figure like this one or when its is printed in the newspaper, they ask us about it. Obviously, people are receiving vegetables and tubers, but now we have the 35 million quintals that we reached as an example that we can reach this figure. It is also an example that we need to improve everything related to the distribution and the handling of these vegetables and tubers.

We need to consider how we can solve these problems. Steps have already been taken in this direction. There is a group of enterprises that distribute their products directly to the marketplaces. This way, the losses that could have been produced are greatly reduced because those products were not left in the fields or because those products were not handled properly during their transportation from the fields to the marketplaces and from the marketplaces to the direct consumers.

This is why these 35 million [quintals] are not only an indication that we can reach this but it is also an indication that we need to plan better all the mechanisms or distribution chains from the farms to the consumers. I also wanted to talk about what the minister said about livestock and play a comment made by Comrade Pedro Ross on this topic.

[Begin Ross recording, in progress] ...in the planting of wisteria and king grass for the western territory, but it should be high. We need to ensure this by starting now. We cannot wait for the tires and the fuel for the tractors. We need to start plowing the soil with the oxen, which is what we should be doing during this stage and period. [end recording]

[Maso] Comrade Pedro Ross was saying we already have the experience of 1992 in the use of livestock from Ciego de Avila to Pinar del Rio and now we cannot be lax. The fuel is simply not going to come. Even if the fuel comes, we need to create the conditions with the oxen and we need to plant the wisteria, leucite [leucaena], and sugarcane.

He is referring to this zone from Ciego de Avila to Pinar del Rio. We need to take care of those animals and we need to work in a serious manner. We need to apply the technology as soon as possible because we cannot afford to lose the animals.

These are some thoughts on the second plenum of the Agricultural-Livestock and Forestry Workers Union in Havana.

Barbuda and Antigua

Opposition Leader on Rescinding of Appointments

FL0901191293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Jan 9, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's parliamentary opposition leader, Baldwin Spencer, has raised an eyebrow at an announcement that the cabinet would rescind the appointments of former public works minister, Vere Bird Jr. and ex-Army chief Clyde Walker as consultants to the government. Spencer said the announcement could be just "for public consumption."

He told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY: "We have had situations in the past where this government has claimed that it has done certain things and in truth and in fact really has not followed through."

He added: "This government clearly cannot be trusted and it requires the people of Antigua and Barbuda to monitor the situation closely to see whether or not these guys are still in place or are being paid by taxpayers' money for the appointments they have claimed they have rescinded."

Bird Jr. and Walker were censured by a government-appointed commission of enquiry for their roles in the illegal trans-shipment of Israeli-made arms and ammunition through St. John's to Colombia for drug barons. The commission recommended that Bird Jr., eldest son

of Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr., be barred for life from holding public office and Walker's instant dismissal as Army chief.

Spencer described the cabinet's original decision to rehire Bird Jr. and Walker as "disgraceful, illegal, and criminal."

Grenada

Businessman Said Soliciting 'No Confidence' Votes

FL1001210693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1931 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Jan 10, CANA—Details are emerging of a botched opposition plan, with private sector backing, to bring down Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite's National Democratic Congress (NDC) government through a parliamentary vote of no confidence.

After Prime Minister Brathwaite told the House of Representatives about the plan last Friday as he wrapped up debate on the government's 1993 budget, an opposition parliamentarian confirmed to CANA a businessman had offered him money in exchange for his support of the no confidence motion.

"I was approached by a businessman and offered EC25,000 dollars for my support for a vote of no confidence in the prime minister and the budget," opposition MP Winston Frederick said.

Frederick, who was elected on a Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) ticket but subsequently broke with the party, said the businessman had also solicited the support of two members of the government.

Another opposition parliamentarian, Malcolm Antoine, said he was not approached for support. He, however, did not deny having information about the existence of the plan to bring down the government.

Prime Minister Brathwaite called no names in Parliament but said an opposition parliamentarian was recently in Canada telling Grenadians to expect elections soon in their homeland.

New National Party (NNP) leader Keith Mitchell recently visited Canada. Attempts by CANA to reach him for a reaction to the prime minister's comments were unsuccessful.

Brathwaite, describing persons behind the plot as "traitors", said Grenadians "would live to regret" if the group ever were elected to office here. He also told Grenadians they must understand that "the greatest threat to the economic prosperity of this country is political instability".

Brathwaite said Grenada had its "fair share" of political problems in the 1970's and 1980's.

Haiti

Deputy Beaubrun in Favor of Holding Elections

FL0801225793 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1200 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Deputy Beaubrun has taken a view that is opposed to the stand of his party. Contrary to his party, the RDNP, Assembly of National Progressive Democrats [headed by former President Leslie F. Manigat], Deputy Gerard Evanns Beaubrun says he favors the holding of the elections scheduled for 18 January by the Exceptional Electoral Council.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Beaubrun] The elections are necessary. The elections are necessary for all the reasons I had already developed.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you recall some of them for us?

[Beaubrun] First, I believe the 14 members must....[pauses] The 10 new members must arrive in the Senate to have a rational quorum. If we leave the Senate with 16 members, as is the case today—or at least 17—I believe we will reach an impasse that will cause the Senate to be blocked. If the Senate is blocked—as we already developed this thesis—the entire parliament will be blocked. If the parliament is blocked....[pauses] Remember that up to now, the parliament is theoretically the institution which is recognized by the international community. Of course, this is only theoretical because the international community negotiates with the government. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Study Predicts Negative Impact of Liberalization

FL0901003793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2224 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 8, CANA—A senior lecturer in the Economics Department at the University of the West Indies, Dennis Pantin, said Friday that trade liberalisation will have a negative impact on the manufacturing sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

Pantin, who lectures at the St. Augustine campus here, was commissioned by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) to undertake a study of the probable negative impact of trade liberalisation on the manufacturing sector.

"The major conclusion drawn is that trade liberalisation will have an aggregate negative impact," he said during a presentation to the manufacturers.

"That is that the negative direct and indirect impact will outweigh the likely less robust positive impact."

Stating that although this was the likely impact, the senior economist said that there was no justification for the retention of the existing system of import substitution protection, "certainly in its current form."

According to Pantin's conclusions, there would be a further 4,000 job losses this year, 7,000 in 1994 and between 10,000 and 17,000 in 1995, depending on the rate of the Common External Tariff (CET).

Heads of government at a special October meeting last year agreed to a phased reduction in the unified tax structure against third country imports, with the objective of achieving a rate structure of five to 20 per cent by January 1998.

"That trade liberalisation is likely to result in a direct job loss of some 14,000 jobs or some 30 per cent of 1991 manufacturing sector employment," Pantin calculated.

"The related loss in salaries is estimated at some 260 million dollars (one TT dollar - 23.5 US cents). Also likely to be affected are 434 million dollars worth of exports, 470 million dollars worth of commercial bank loans, the collection of some 120 million dollars worth of indirect taxes and 472 million dollars worth of accumulated investment between 1981- 1989," said the economist.

He added, "Although there is an undoubted margin of error, these estimates do not attempt to take into account the indirect or feedback impact of the unavoidable negative impact on economic activities which are themselves dependent on the manufacturing sector whether for sale of inputs, demand from employees etc. The impact on the agricultural sector also has not been addressed."

According to the government's Central Statistical Office, there were a little over 1,000 manufacturing firms in the country in 1991, employing 43,000 persons.

Salaries, wages and other benefits totalled 865 million dollars with 100 million dollars being contributed in personal taxes and national insurance benefits.

It is estimated that the sector contributed 100 million dollars to corporate income tax and was responsible for the collection of 260 million dollars in indirect taxes including the value added tax.

Utility payments in 1991 were estimated at 100 million dollars.

Pantin also said that trade liberalisation in the twin-island state would have an impact on imports from the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

Stating that Jamaica had already "gone along that road", Pantin remarked that Guyana was somewhat "along the road" with its new policies, while Barbados and the eastern Caribbean countries, although less so, were facing some pressure.

"One of the implications of trade liberalisation in Trinidad and Tobago is that it does have implications for manufacturing exports coming from the rest of Caricom which come primarily from Jamaica and Barbados-...roughly 35 or 30 per cent.

"In other words, trade liberalisation is also going to have something of an impact on the access of those markets.... Trade liberalisation in Jamaica is probably also impacting on the ability to access the Jamaican market," Pantin remarked.

Pantin said the reality was that Trinidad and Tobago had to develop a global competitive edge across a range or spectrum of goods and services - particularly in the non-oil sector.

To achieve the desired results would require an industrial policy and a related managed trade regime, he said.

Salinas Makes Statement After Clinton Meeting

PA0801223093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 2118 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Statement by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari after meeting with President-elect Bill Clinton in Austin, Texas—live]

[Text] Mr. President-elect Clinton: First of all, I want to express my appreciation for the hospitality of Governor Ann Richards and the Texan people. This has been a positive, respectful, and very cordial meeting. President-elect Clinton and I have established the bases so that Mexico and the United States can enter a new era of relations of mutual respect and of mutual benefit. I am sure that, based on our principles and given the excellent disposition of President-elect Clinton, we can turn these plans into positive facts.

During our conversations, we had an opportunity to exchange experiences, opinions, and above all, our vision of the world and the future. President-elect Clinton was very interested in the process of change that is taking place in Mexico, especially on learning that while we are transforming our economy, we have a far-reaching social program in Mexico. He was very interested in our culture, political evolution, and world presence. I listened with great attention to his program of change for the United States and his desire for this great nation's prosperity.

We broached the topics on the bilateral agenda, particularly the mechanisms that have already been established. We agreed that these topics will be very broad, beginning with cooperation to counter drug trafficking; attention and respect for the migrant workers' human rights; and likewise, financial and economic cooperation, the environment and especially education, a topic which is of great interest to both presidents.

Regarding the trilateral free trade agreement, we studied its current status and reaffirmed that the text will not be reopened.

President-elect Clinton is sure of the agreement and has pointed out additional topics of interest. He shares the view of the future put forth in the agreements. We will work together once he takes office to make the treaty a reality for the benefit of the three nations.

Ladies and gentlemen: We have laid the foundations for fruitful, positive, and respectful relations. The cordiality of our personal relationship is strengthened by our determination to be friends, and to respect our principles, particularly the principle of sovereignty and self-determination. Thank you very much, President-elect Clinton, for your cordiality. [applause]

Treasury Secretary on Economic Growth, Budget

PA0701202493 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Mexican economy grew 2.8 percent in 1992. Pedro Aspe, secretary of finance, public credit, planning, and budget set the goal for 1993 at 3 percent. Here is what Aspe said:

[Begin Aspe recording] We continue to grow at a rate of 3 percent in terms of production. This is obviously not spectacular growth, but it is three times higher than the world rate. [end recording]

The finance secretary spoke at the inauguration of a seminar on economic perspectives for 1993 organized by the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico. Aspe mentioned that he will continue fighting inflation to maintain the downward trend observed since 1980. He also mentioned the importance that the federal budget will place on social sectors this year. Here are the figures:

[Begin Aspe recording] Mexico's 1993 budget has been increased as follows: in the agricultural sector, 9.3 percent; education, 15 percent; health and social security, 12.8 percent; and environmental preservation, 26.9 percent. All of this was done with sound public finances. [end recording]

The treasury secretary affirmed that Mexican development is progressing but added that the business sector must be modernized.

[Begin Aspe recording] To get out of debt, one must capitalize the companies, investments must be made, equipment must be replaced, and work relations must be brought up to date within the context of an open economy. Many of the labor contracts were signed in a closed economy. Previously the inefficiencies of the contracts were passed on to consumers, but that is no longer acceptable. Businesses must take a new approach, looking for market competition instead of for national finances or government support to allow them to continue operating when they cannot compete on the market. [end recording]

El Salvador

National Police Director Reportedly Replaced

PA0801185093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Colonel Roque Ciro Lopez, director of the National Police, has been replaced by Deputy Director Colonel Francisco Salinas. It is not known where Col. Lopez has been assigned. According to public sources, the transfer of command was carried out on 7 January in a private ceremony, as the military changes in various brigades and detachments have taken place this week.

The removal of Col. Lopez does not appear in General Order No.14 issued by President Cristiani on 31 December because the National Police is not currently under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces. Nevertheless, other sources indicated Lopez' replacement by Col. Salinas is in line with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission, created to evaluate and purge the military officers who committed grave crimes against the people during the armed conflict.

Government Demobilizes Cacahuatique Battalion

PA0901134893 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0847 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 9 Jan (DPA)—The Salvadoran Government has reported that over 400 troops of the Cacahuatique Battalion were demobilized on 8 January to comply with the peace agreements. The counterinsurgency battalion, belonging to Military Detachment No. 4, was headquartered in Morazan Department.

This demobilization completes the dismantling of at least eight counterinsurgency units created during the 12-year war in the country's various detachments and brigades in addition to the special elite battalions such as the Atlacatl, Belloso, Bracamonte, Atonal, and Arce. The Arce Battalion has not yet been demobilized.

The Atonal Battalion was dismantled a few days ago in Usulutan Department, also in eastern El Salvador. The demobilization ceremony was presided by Commander Nelson Ivan Lopez y Lopez, of the 3d Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel, and by delegates from the UN Observers for El Salvador.

Together with the Arce Battalion, the Cacahuatique battalion waged some fierce battles during the war in northern Morazan and San Miguel, from where they were never able to dislodge the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rebels who were entrenched in the Cacahuatique Mountains. [passage omitted]

FMLN Says Government Trying To Avoid Army Purge

PA1001145993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which has now become a political party, on 9 January charged that the government is paving the way to avoid completing the Armed Forces purge outlined in the peace agreements. The former guerrilla group interpreted President Alfredo Cristiani's remarks about possible attacks on top FMLN leaders as preparations for a plan to avoid discharging 117 military chiefs from the Army as recommended by an ad hoc commission.

Sigfrido Reyes of the FMLN Political Directorate has said the government is trying to win more credibility in the face of the 1994 general elections.

[Begin Reyes recording] This is a way to justify the government's failure to act, just as the government has been offering other explanations. Presidential Communications Secretary Ernesto Altschul, for example, said not long ago that the government had a commitment with the United Nations, but it has a greater commitment to its people. It is paving the way to reject or ignore the recommendations that we understand the United Nations is preparing on the purge. The threats of possible incidents or attacks on FMLN leaders is a specter it is now raising to gain credibility and maneuvering room because it will not conduct a total purge as proposed by the ad hoc commission. As I said, it is not that we are unaware of possible threats or attacks by groups or individuals opposed to the peace process. We understand there are necessary risks that we as a front decided to accept on 16 January in Chapultepec. We confirmed it when we destroyed our weapons during the process that ended on 15 December. We were not free from risks. We could not envision a political struggle without risks. We cannot, however, accept being told that the Armed Forces cannot be purged because of fears of attacks. We are saying quite the opposite. That is exactly why we must purge the Armed Forces as soon as possible. The sooner the better, not just for the FMLM and President Cristiani, as it would reinforce his authority, but also for the entire nation. [end recording]

International dispatches from the United Nations stated that President Cristiani said there may be attacks on some former FMLN commanders, but he noted he had not heard any specific threats. The FMLN, however, accepted the risks before signing the peace agreements, the former guerrilla leader said.

Villalobos on Purge Negotiations With Government

PA1001210393 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Romeo Lemus]

[Text] Joaquin Villalobos, former commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], on 8 January confirmed that his organization is negotiating with the government on whether a specific number of high-ranking military officers should temporarily remain in their posts. Villalobos said a consensus has been reached on certain military leaders, but there are differences over others:

[Begin Villalobos recording] There are problems with a group of soldiers. I think La Tandona [reference to 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School] would place us in a situation [words indistinct]. The FMLN is studying proposals to implement the measure fully as mandated by the agreement. We have reached a consensus on certain officers, but we are not finished yet. We will now discuss the other soldiers. [end recording]

The FMLN leader said the two parties are studying the form, not the essence of the purge. This suggests they are trying to reach an agreement rather than jeopardize the transition period. Villalobos said no names can be revealed at this time:

[Begin Villalobos recording] This is a highly controversial political issue. I said not long ago that no agreement was fulfilled completely. There was compliance with the essence of all agreements but not with the form. I think we must focus our discussions more on form than essence, because the essence cannot be altered. [end recording]

The secret talks among the FMLN, government, and Armed Forces were known after two of President Alfredo Cristiani's envoys visited the United Nations. The situation, however, remains unchanged.

[Begin Villalobos recording] The government has adopted a number of measures that it believes will guarantee stability. However, we were unable to reach an agreement on the issue. [end recording]

The five organizations that make up the FMLN agreed on one thing: A purge of the Armed Forces is needed to purify the peace process. The government, however, unsettled the FMLN by presenting a staggered purge proposal continuing until 1994. Some rebel leaders agreed with it, but not a majority.

Peasant Group Urges Government To Purge Army

PA0801130593 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Democratic Peasant Alliance, ADC, has urged the government to comply with the commitments made to the Salvadoran people, particularly regarding the Army's purge.

In a communique, ADC reported civilian authorities must play an important role in the country's economic development and in the decisionmaking process. It also recalled that the peace agreements signed between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front required the purge and reduction of the Army to establish civilian power and to subordinate the Army to this power.

ADC added it is not important if dates are changed, but it is important that the government complies with the agreements for peace and a real democracy. A purge is necessary, especially for military officers who have been violating human rights for years and controlling real power, the communique reported.

In addition, many young and honest officers whom we know exist, must be given an opportunity to take command instead of continuing to be peons, the communique further stated.

In conclusion, it stressed the Armed Forces must not look at these measures as revenge by the people. Instead, they must be viewed as a need to adjust to the new transition toward peace.

Honduras

Callejas on Possible Reelection, Cabinet Changes

PA0701173993 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by Rene Zepeda in Tegucigalpa; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Callejas] Good morning, Rene Zepeda. Cordial greetings to all the Honduran people. I have been surprised more than once by these kinds of reports, and I want to reassure my fellow citizens that the Republic's Constitution states that the presidential term is four years. I participated in a political struggle in October 1989 to prevent reforms to the Republic's Constitution because they would have resulted in actions that would have allowed a violation of the Constitution. I am a democrat, and as president of the Republic, I swore I would abide by the Constitution and the country's laws.

I would like to reemphasize something: The law is the rule, and we will abide by the law. I said that in my report to Congress because I wanted to preclude speculation about it. I think someone is trying to fool the Honduran people. It involves groups whose sole purpose is to create uncertainty in the nation. I was surprised to read today's editorial in LA TRIBUNA and to hear an interview with Carlos Roberto Reina, presidential hopeful for the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH]. I ask PLH members not to become involved in efforts to create such expectations. I also ask other groups in the country to avoid creating this type of irregular situation within the country's institutional framework.

Rene Zepeda, I reassert this to the Honduran people: My term as president, for which I feel quite honored, is four years, and that is how it will be. There are no initiatives, intentions, hopes, will, or reason to modify that basic

principle of the Constitution. I will turn over the Presidency in four years, meaning in January 1994. I ask all Hondurans not to believe in those speculative reports.

I urge political party members not to become involved in this type of speculative activity. I reassert this to the media. I also ask the media not to allow for this type of disinformation in an electoral year because it will only lead to negative things for the Honduran people. I ask my fellow party members and political friends to work hard and not to let anyone take advantage of them. They must work hard so Dr. Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto can be elected president. He is the presidential candidate of my party, the National Party of Honduras [PNH], and I have faith and hope that the Honduran people will support his political campaign so he can achieve the second PNH victory.

I thank you for this call and I ask you, as representative of the most important radio station in the country, to tell everyone who speculates on this issue that he has no right to do so. I will fulfill the Honduran people's mandate based on the Republic's laws, which clearly state the following: one, the presidential term is four years; two, there is no reelection. I sincerely tell you: I am displeased because some people, for reasons that I ignore but which undoubtedly include fomenting speculation and doubts about the electoral process, are trying to spread this type of negative information among the Honduran people.

[Zepeda] Mr. President, we know you are about to leave for the government house. We have only one more question: Is any political pressure being exerted concerning changes in the cabinet?

[Callejas] I have not been subject to political pressure from any group, not even the PNH. The decisions about appointments, acceptance of resignations, or replacement of public officials are exclusively adopted by the president of the Republic. I have received the traditional resignations tendered by all the government officials whom the president can replace whenever he deems it appropriate. I will adopt whatever decisions I consider advantageous for the Honduran people in the next few days. Modifications in the government cabinet and autonomous agencies are always possible, but they should be consistent with our economic programs and should strive to protect the Honduran people's interests.

[Zepeda] We thank the president for his kindness. We know you have to leave for the government house, so we will ask no more questions, even though many of our listeners would like us to do so.

$35 Million Loan Agreement Signed With Spain

PA0801235993 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 7 Jan 93 p 38

[Text] The Honduran and Spanish Governments signed a $35 million loan agreement on 6 January. The money will be used to develop water resources in Nacaome Valley.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Inocencio Arias, Spanish cooperation secretary, who is visiting the country, signed the agreement.

The project includes a 6,000-hectare irrigation system; potable water supply for 32,000 people in 12 communities; 400-hectare shrimp breeding facilities; reconstruction of 150 km of highway, and most important, construction of a hydroelectric plant with three generators.

The hydroelectric plant will have a total capacity of 30 megawatts and will generate 85 million kilowatts per hour.

The agreement notes that the project's implementation will begin with the irrigation works and damming of 97 million cubic meters of water. The 50 to 60 meter high dam will be located on the Nacaome River, 10 km north of Pespire.

The first stage of the project includes the irrigation of 2,500 hectares, construction of the dam and hydroelectric plant, and the potable water supply project for Pespire, Jicaro Galan, Nacaome, and San Lorenzo.

Spain's $35 million loan will pay only for the equipment and construction of the hydroelectric plant.

The irrigation and dam projects, worth $50 million (37 million European Currency Units), will be financed by the Italian Government.

Mauro Membreno, minister of the Secretariat for Communications, Public Works and Transportation, attended the agreement's signing.

Nicaragua

UNO Offers Proposal to FSLN 8 Jan

PA0801232593 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1500 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Proposal by the National Opposition Union, UNO, legislative wing negotiating commission to the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, legislative wing negotiating commission, issued in Managua on 8 January; read by UNO Deputy Eli Altamirano Perez, coordinator of the UNO legislative wing negotiating commission—recorded]

[Text] The conflict at the National Assembly is part of the widespread crisis affecting Nicaragua. If this dispute extends beyond 9 January, the future will be cloudier, the government's international relations will be more complex, cooperation with Nicaragua could be blocked, and the resolve to make 1993 the beginning of the country's economic rebuilding could be frustrated.

Aware of the seriousness of this situation, the National Opposition Union (UNO) legislative wing negotiating

commission proposes to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) legislative wing negotiating commission the following measures to definitely resolve the problems at the legislature:

1. The independence of the state branches should be maintained, as well as the independence and autonomy of the legislative branch. At the same time, we will proceed to increase and improve coordination between the executive branch and other state branches.

2. In accordance with the sovereign will of the Nicaraguan people, expressed at the polls on 25 February 1990, the UNO legislative wing will maintain its five positions on the National Assembly Board of Directors that will be elected. Among these, the UNO will occupy the presidency, first secretary, and first vice presidency. The other two positions will be filled by the Sandinist legislative wing.

The UNO legislative wing alone may elect its candidates, as it did in the cases of Dr. Luis Humberto Guzman and Engineer Roberto Urros. The FSLN legislative wing will elect its members to the board.

3. Starting with the problems that are known to all, the guarantee of this election will be established by insuring the UNO legislative wing majority in the 9 January session. This will be done by authorizing alternate Deputies Ricardo Vega, Benjamin Perez, and Orentes Perez Arevalo to attend that session.

4. Concerning the problems that have arisen since 2 September 1992 and that continue to date, there will be no statutory sanctions against anyone.

5. The legislative agenda may only be modified by the Board of Directors in an ordinary or special meeting.

6. A permanent effort to reach a consensus by both legislative wings regarding the legislative agenda and the general handling of the Legislative Branch will be established and regulated.

7. We will proceed together to clarify, strengthen, and guarantee the rights and democratic duties of the majority and minority parliamentary blocs.

8. The laws approved from 2 September to 15 December 1992 will be revised with a spirit of consensus by both parliamentary blocs.
[Issued] Managua, 8 January 1993

FSLN Deputy Responds

PA0901023993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Sergio Ramirez Mercado, chief of the Sandinist National Liberation Front bloc in the Legislative Assembly, with unidentified reporter in Managua on 8 January—recorded]

[Text] [Ramirez] On 7 January, I got a call at home from comrade Eli Altamirano, asking for a meeting. I gladly agreed to meet with him this morning at my house. He came and, rather than holding a meeting, he handed me a paper. He even asked me to sign it the way judicial employees do. It was as if this were some kind of judicial notification. I obviously did not sign anything because it seemed really absurd. It was as if it were some sort of ultimatum signed by the UNO legislative wing negotiating commission. Eli Altamirano is the coordinator of the commission, and the document is dated 8 January. I do not really know if the UNO negotiating commission read it, because it seems really strange. I will merely read point three. After saying UNO is entitled to five posts on the Board of Directors, something that does not scare me since one can understand that they have a position on the matter, point three reads: Based on the already known problems, the guarantee of this election will be established by securing a majority for the UNO bloc in the 9 January session. For that purpose, alternates Ricardo Vega, Benjamin Perez, and Orontes Perez Arevalo will be accredited for that session. They are the alternates of three deputies of the Center Group: Chavarria, Madriz, and Robles.

I asked Altamirano what this means, and he replied that the deputies either decided not to attend or will be subject to a sanction. After reading only that point, I stopped the meeting, because it seems totally surreal. If this is the serious negotiating stance they want to adopt, I—who support negotiations and want to us to solve the problem the best way possible—feel that [nine-second break in transmission] to find a solution to this situation.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the FSLN bloc adhering to its stance of supporting Gustavo Tablada for National Assembly president, although other UNO bloc members did not attend the meeting?

[Ramirez] First of all, I will tell you we are in no way going to accept the outrage of someone wishing to decide what deputies will not attend and will be replaced by their alternates. I would like to know the purpose of this. Second, we have the legitimate right to support Gustavo Tablada as National Assembly president, because we earned that right by virtue of the fact we have 39 votes in the National Assembly. We will cast those votes in favor of Tablada.

Lacayo on National Assembly Board of Directors

PA0801150993 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Aura Lila Moreno]

[Text] A few days prior to the National Assembly elections, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has asserted that the confrontation phase in the legislative branch "has ended" and it has started a phase of understanding with enhanced dialogue among the representatives of the country's political forces.

After participating in the government's first public event in 1993 [not further described], Lacayo said he was

confident that at least 60 deputies will attend the parliamentary meeting on 9 January, to elect—according to him—a well-balanced board of directors that will reduce the confrontation and polarization spurred by former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar.

Luis H. Guzman's Disappointment

Lacayo said he had reminded Guzman of the National Opposition Union, UNO, communique instructing the deputies who followed Cesar that they were prohibited to negotiate and that a commission was assigned this task during a private meeting in Montelimar. He said Guzman had answered: "The truth of the matter is that we are here and are trying to negotiate."

"I told him he had to negotiate with his fellow deputies as I am not a National Assembly member," the minister added. He, however, informed the Christian Democratic Union [UDC] deputy that the executive was interested in the election of a board of directors formed by members of the remaining UNO group, the center group, and the Sandinists.

The top government official said he was totally convinced that the new authorities would lead the National Assembly through a path of moderation, dialogue, and the promulgation of new laws to benefit the country. Lacayo feels deputies, such as Guzman, have become aware that "it is impossible" to continue operating illegally as the Supreme Court annulled all the legislative sessions held since 2 September 1992.

The Cost of Illegality: 15 Million

"The UDC has become aware that this game leads nowhere," Lacayo said. He said four months of work have been lost since 2 September, costing the Nicaraguan people approximately 15 million cordobas. This money could have been used—according to him—to build another cathedral or 6,000 housing units.

After repeating that he knew the deputies had become aware of such a situation and that "they have to start 1993 in a more responsible manner," Lacayo referred to Cesar's unpatriotic positions during his term as president of the legislative branch. "You cannot think that a National Assembly president who has asked that foreign aid be suspended, is able to generate agreement."

On another topic and very sure of his words, Lacayo said UNO political adviser Wilfredo Navarro was an unbalanced person. Navarro recently announced several actions to destabilize the government, including asking people not to pay taxes. "Nicaragua affords enough freedom for people to say any silly thing," he commented.

"Very Serious" Situation

The minister also mentioned the constitutional reforms debate announced by Gustavo Tablada as part of his legislative agenda, which was rejected by Sandinist bloc leader Sergio Ramirez. He said: "I believe that promoting constitutional reforms could be debated once the National Assembly resumes its regular activities and has a more balanced and patriotic board of directors."

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo called for a negotiated solution to the conflict between the executive and legislative branches and said he considered the situation to be "very serious." In his opinion, it is necessary to reach national agreement because, if not, "we are going to do poorly."

Obando y Bravo warned there could be a reduction in foreign aid, which would spark local businessmen's dissatisfaction if a national agreement was not reached.

National Assembly Elects New Leadership

PA0901165793

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 1403 GMT on 9 January begins to broadcast live a National Assembly meeting from the Legislative Assembly building in Managua with fair to poor reception.

The meeting to elect new leadership is chaired by Domingo Sanchez Salgado, president of the provisional board appointed by government decree, who requests a roll call. After announcing they are having audio difficulties because "the audio technician chose not to come to today's session," Sanchez Salgado says there are 48 deputies present and therefore there is a quorum. The station announcer points out that the National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies are not attending the session.

During the session, deputies from the Center Bloc nominate only one candidate for each post, with Sandinist deputies seconding the same candidate. Votes are taken by show of hands.

Sanchez Salgado swears in the new leadership as follows: President Gustavo Tablada Zelaya, First Vice President Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, Second Vice President Ivan Salvador Madriz, Third Vice President Guillermo Chavarria; First Secretary Francisco Jose Duarte, Second Secretary Ray Hooker Taylor, and Third Secretary Marcia Quezada. With the exception of Quezada, who was elected by 47 votes in favor and one abstention, all candidates are elected unanimously.

New assembly president Tablada begins to speak. After voicing appreciation for the work done by all who attended the session and thanking them for their support in electing him, Tablada says: "I also want to remind all of you present, the deputies who are absent from this session, and all Nicaraguan citizens of the commitment we—the members of the Center Bloc—have made to uphold our stand and we will continue to strive for depolarization so that there will be no more tension in Nicaragua, and we will begin a new life in Nicaragua."

Tablada then refers to the "bitter moments" in Nicaraguan history that are "mainly promoted by confrontation and polarization."

In concluding his remarks, Tablada notes that "in view of the recent events in Nicaragua, the members of the Center Bloc feel that our position has been just and that we must continue with this stand until we reach our goals. With this objective in mind, on this occasion I want to appeal to all those who are present here, to the deputies absent from this meeting, and to all Nicaraguans in general, because if we really want to move our beloved fatherland ahead we must eliminate these confrontations and guarantee stability in the country."

With the playing of the national anthem, the assembly session ends.

Sandinist Deputy Comments

PA0901170793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Interview with Sergio Ramirez Mercado, National Assembly deputy from the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, by several unidentified reporters at the National Assembly in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ramirez] ...the National Assembly's needs are thus fulfilled according to the Nicaraguan Constitution. We have a legal board of directors, which was duly elected with the required quorum. The statutes indicate that 47 votes are needed to elect a National Assembly member and we had 48. The minutes have been accepted, thus the National Assembly's legality has been reestablished. This is a very important step. It is true that the UNO [National Opposition Union] faction was absent and this is regrettable. We made every possible effort, working day and night, to include the UNO and we failed, but we are sure that once the ordinary sessions begin there will be UNO parliamentary groups attending.

We have left behind the abnormal illegal situation in which the National Assembly found itself. At the first National Assembly ordinary session that will take place on 26 January, my bench will formally motion for the National Assembly to fully obey the Supreme Court of Justice sentence. This will also help to strengthen the National Assembly's legal work. This is the time to congratulate the National Assembly and the Nicaraguan people for getting the National Assembly's normalization process off to a good start today. Now we await the opportunity to work in peace so as to give the country the laws it deserves.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] ...about 1,500 people?

[Ramirez] It seems that this number of people is very small when you compare it to the great crowds they said would prevent access to the National Assembly. I left my office a bit late and traveled through the Managua streets on a quiet Saturday, a Saturday like any other ordinary Saturday, with everyone minding their own business. Here we have freedom to demonstrate and this is one of the signs that we are living under a democratic regime. The march was authorized by the police and ended where it was intended to end and showed the political force it had to show—weak and scanty.

New Cabinet Sworn In 9 Jan

PA0901230393

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 2109 GMT on 9 January broadcasts live from the Government House in Managua the swearing in ceremony of new cabinet members.

The ceremony begins with the playing of the national anthem. Thomas Delaney Solis, presidential legal adviser, announces: "We will read the names of the persons who comprise the cabinet, including the ministries, autonomous entities, and other agencies of the executive branch. It is worth noting that two new ministries have been created, namely the Social Action Ministry [Ministerio de Accion Social] and the Tourism Ministry [Ministerio de Turismo]. The latter replaces the Nicaraguan Institute for Tourism, which has been functioning as an automous entity of the state. The names of the persons who comprise the cabinet are as follows:

Presidency	Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren
Deputy Minister	Jose Adan Guerra Pastora
Government	Alfredo Mendieta Artola
Deputy Ministers	Joaquin Lovo Tellez
	Frank Cesar Reyes
Foreign Affairs	Ernesto Leal Sanchez
Deputy Minister	Jose Bernard Pallais
Finance	Emilio Pereira Alegria
Deputy Ministers	(Mirna Tomarriva de Bravo)
	(Rene Vallecillo Quiroz)
Social Action	William Baez Sacasa
[No deputy minister announced]	
Construction and Transportation	Pablo Vigil Icaza
Deputy Ministers	Raul Leclair Lugo
	Edmundo Zuniga Garcia
Foreign Cooperation	Erwin Krugger Maltes
Deputy Minister	Carlos Mario Blandon
Economy and Development	Pablo Pereira
Deputy Minister	Alfonso Deshon Gomez
Agriculture and Livestock	Roberto Rondon Sacasa
Deputy Ministers	Jorge Granera Sacasa
	Julio Rivera Valles
Health	Martha Palacios Fernandez
Deputy Ministers	Federico Munoz Fernandez
	Ignacio Velez Lacayo
Education	Humberto Belli Pereira
Deputy Minister	Jose Sandino

Labor	Francisco Rosales Arguello
Deputy Minister	Mario Garache
Tourism	Fernando Guzman Cuadra
Deputy Minister	Bayardo Garcia Nunez"

He then reads the names of the heads of autonomous agencies and other Executive Branch offices as follows:

Presidential Economy Adviser	Julio Cardenas Robleto
Central Bank of Nicaragua President	Jose Evenor Taboada Arana
Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE)	
Director	Emilio Rappaccioli Baltodano
Deputy Directors	(Otto Caceres Urbina)
	Jose Ley Law
Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewage Institute	
(INAA) Director	Winston Caldera Cardenal
Deputy Director	Gustavo Adolfo Martinez Montoya
Nicaraguan Telecomunications	
and Postal Services Institute (Telcor)	
Director	Rolando Rivas
Nicaraguan Social Security	
and Welfare Institute (INSSBI)	
President	Simeon Rizo
Vice President	Oscar Castano
Nicaraguan Insurance and	
Reinsurance Institute (INISER)	
President	Carlos Arturo Jarquin Lacayo
Vice President	Horacio Baules Roberto Canton Barba
Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal	
Development (INIFOM)	
President	Santiago Ulises Rivas
Director	Agustin Jarquin Anaya
Nicaraguan Agrarian Reform Instituto (INRA)	
Director	Bohanerges Matus Lasso
Deputy Director	Roberto Guzman Vasquez
Deputy Director	Alvaro Fiallos Oyanguren
Nicaraguan Natural Resources	
and Environment Institute (IRENA)	
Director General	Jaime Incer
Deputy Director General	Patricio Jerez
Nicaraguan Institute of Culture	
Director	Hilario Ramirez Espinosa
Deputy Director	Pierre Pierson
Nicaraguan Institute of Sports (IND)	
Director	Carlos Garcia
Deputy Director	Sucre Frech
National Technological Institute (Inatec)	
President	[name indistinct] Quintero Leiva
Vice President	(Maria Jose Tellez Urcuyo)
Nicaraguan Institute for the Development	
of the Autonomous Regions	
Director	Brooklyn Rivera
Deputy Director	Owen Boto Blanco
National Corporations of	
the Public Sector (CORNAP)	
President	Dayton Caldera
Vice President	Ernesto Valladares
Secretary	Gioconda Padilla Godoy
Attorney General's Office	
Attorney General	Guillermo Vargas Sandino
Deputy Attorney General	Maria Francis Blandon Somarriba
Emergency Fund For Social	
Investments (FISE)	
President	Jaime Icabalceta Mayorga
Executive Director	Carlos Noguera Pastora
Superintendency of Banks and	
Other Financial Institutions	
Superintendent	Angel Navarro
Deputy Superintendent	Danilo Sabarria

The cabinet members come forward and are presented to President Violeta Chamorro, who administers the oath of office. Chamorro makes a six-minute speech, and then the live broadcast ends.

Chamorro Addresses New Cabinet

PA0901230093 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2124 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Speech by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to new cabinet members at the Government House in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan people, cabinet members, friends of the media, and everyone who hears me. Thank you for accompanying me this afternoon, as I complete the second year of my constitutional term as president of the Republic of Nicaragua. Periodic changes and replacements in government posts have occurred since I took office as president on 25 April 1990 to strengthen the government's structure. Such changes in the government

cabinet represent a clear expression of the democratic system that prevails in Nicaragua.

I use this occasion to sincerely thank all those who have been working under my guidance, either in ministerial posts or in autonomous government entities, and who now retire to their private activities. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. I also thank all those who continue to render their services here, as well as those who now join the government team. I warmly welcome them.

We have just announced the new appointments and we have sworn in the new members, who are gathered here. They will accompany me in this great national task to consolidate democracy and strive for Nicaragua's social and economic recovery. We must realize that belonging to the government cabinet implies constant sacrifice, hard work, honesty, integrity, dedication, and love for our people. Our tasks should specifically strive to benefit the most needy groups of our population.

As my assistants in the different public administration branches, each one of you must implement the government platform for which the Nicaraguan people voted on 25 February 1990. Also, the qualities which should distinguish the members of my government should include professionalism, patriotism, and honesty. Referring to this issue, I will deal strictly with public officials who become involved in acts of corruption, because the Nicaraguan people are the sole owners of the state's assets and I have always strongly rejected dishonest actions.

Let us act as true public officials and let us work hard and efficiently so our people may enjoy the benefits of our dedication. Let us exert ourselves and make sure the people's interests always prevail over other economic or partisan interests. This is the only way we can strengthen our national reconciliation, social justice, production, and progress.

To serve this government of national unity implies respect for a political guideline based on the Nicaraguan family's consensus and patriotic reconciliation, and national unity. Likewise, if we want to achieve success in our tasks we must be convinced that we must work in a coordinated way, as a team, and as a strong and united family.

The Presidency Ministry will act as liaison between the president of the Republic and the cabinet members, presidents or directors of autonomous agencies, as well as other public officials and authorities, according to what is established in Decree 1-90.

Dear friends, I again invite you to serve and give the best of ourselves to our people and homeland. May god, our lord, bless Nicaragua; may he bless every one of us; and may he enlighten us. Thank you, my dear friends [applause]

President Chamorro Opens Legislative Session

PA1001182393 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1525 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro to open the ninth period of legislative sessions at the National Assembly in Managua—live]

[Text] Before beginning I wish to request a minute of silence, not only for my husband Pedro Joaquin, but also for those who died for the cause of democracy in our country, whose memory we must always honor. [one minute of silence]

Dr. Gustavo Tablada, president of the National Assembly; Messrs. members of the directorate and representatives of the National Assembly; Messrs. members of the branches of state; Messrs. members of the government cabinet; Messrs. members of the diplomatic corp; Messrs. special guests; Nicaraguans:

When I assumed the government on 25 April 1990, the national state was divided by the blue and white of the National Opposition Union flag and the red and black of the Sandinist National Liberation Front flag. That convinced me I could not build a democratic society based on rancor, vengeance, and antagonism.

The rain of plastic bags holding various liquids that were thrown at me and the applause I received strengthened my idea that we needed to replace the policy of honesty for the dissidents and aggression for the opponents with a government promoting dialogue and national interests under a nonpartisan flag.

I began my work thinking I should be president of all Nicaragua. I decided to seek the help of God and of a cabinet made up of men and women who would assist me in governing with the necessary pragmatism to fulfill the government program and honor the following commitments:

1. Establish a legal state for the exercise of full democracy and social justice by allowing all sectors of the nation to have a voice and participate.

2. Achieve a national agreement between the government and all segments of society to bring about the reconciliation of Nicaraguans, build democracy and peace, and overcome the country's crisis.

3. Establish a national salvation government that is primarily civilian, republican, democratic, representative, and based on national unity to serve the fatherland and seek common good above partisan interests.

4. Lead the country to the path of an authentic democratic national revolution to guarantee social and political pluralism, independence in the face of hegemonical interests of world powers, and a social market economy in which private and state companies, cooperatives, and joint enterprises operate harmoniously.

Those commitments have been my guide and will continue to be my guide for the next four years, as will be the love and respect I have for all Nicaraguans: women, children, poor people, laborers, businessmen, peasants, professionals, public employees, teachers, market vendors, war victims, elderly people, religious people, producers, and Nicaraguans from all areas of our country.

My commitment to the people and the government platform has meant that the rights of each and every Nicaraguan are sacred.

We now enjoy complete freedom of expression and the ability to present positively our demands to society and to the government. Each and every Nicaraguan also wants to be given the opportunity to participate to the best of his capabilities in building our common home: our fatherland.

In these years we have made it possible to demobilize the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and reduce the Army to its current size. We launched an economic plan to defeat inflation. We strove to find a just solution to the property problem inherited from the previous government. We strengthened the judicial branch by respecting impartial and independent sentences. We traveled abroad requesting support for our people. We have done all these things to build a new and dignified fatherland for the benefit of our children and grandchildren so each and every Nicaraguan can establish, live, work, and struggle for what he feels can bring him happiness in our country.

Faithful to our ideals and commitments in 1992, we managed to achieve successful results through urgent actions that made it possible to consolidate monetary stability, maintain an annual inflation rate below 4 percent, register positive economic growth, destroy more than 70,000 weapons, grenades, and mines that were in civilian hands, and strengthen the reduction of the military apparatus as well as the professionalization of the Army and National Police. We strengthened democracy and justice by promoting liberties, respecting the Supreme Court of Justice, and preserving public order against threats from union leaders and rearmed groups that insisted on resorting to violent methods to meet their demands.

Despite the success, we faced great difficulties. We suffered tragedies such as the Cerro Negro eruption and the tidal wave. International prices of our main exports, such as coffee, cotton, and bananas, dropped. The promised U.S. aid was delayed. All of those factors reduced our income, slowed down our public investment plans, affected credits for production, and had a negative effect on employment.

In addition, our National Assembly was affected on 2 September 1992 when a session was held without the quorum established by our Constitution, which caused a polarization in legislative functions over the past four months. I am confident that deputies of all political tendencies will work in consensus for the benefit of our fatherland in 1993.

In 1993 we will promote a reactivation that will link economic growth with the democratization of opportunities for all the real actors in Nicaraguan society. The reactivation should benefit the neediest, the unemployed, and those who were affected by the drought.

The success achieved in the eradication of inflation allows us now to enter the second phase of the economic program with measures that will be announced in detail by the economic cabinet on the afternoon of 10 January.

We intend to work for our economic stabilization with measures that can begin to generate results leading to productive jobs, exports, promotion of agricultural production, and greater activity throughout the economy. We will work on reactivating the economy in support of communities and productive sectors. We want a comprehensive reactivation that can contribute to the consolidation of democracy, to the improvement of the quality of life for the majority of the people, and for the preservation of the environment.

Some people believe the state should play a passive role and stay away from economic activities, allowing market forces to be the economy's absolute guide. Others believe the state should continue with its paternalist attitudes, subsidizing and providing assistance without bearing in mind the country's production or the [word indistinct] economy.

We believe a healthy economy reflects respect for the country's economic laws, but we also believe it is necessary to promote all economic players, big and small, to participate efficiently and productively in the reactivation Nicaragua urgently needs.

In Nicaragua, recent processes such as the agrarian reform, lands for demobilized and disarmed people, and privatizations favoring workers have placed productive resources into the hands of the people. There is potential here that must be taken advantage of and strengthened.

Honorable representatives, the social agenda will be a priority of the central government in 1993. With the help of the new Social Action Ministry, we are going to develop programs aimed at fulfilling the needs of the poorest sectors. We are going to do it in close coordination with the community so together the central government and our communities can form a common front against extreme poverty. It is necessary to begin the new year by drafting and implementing a social agenda that can resolve problems in health, education, housing, and unemployment.

We do not need a social agenda drafted by our technicians and experts. We need a social agenda based on the needs of our own people. We need a social agenda that can be drafted in each municipality, in each neighborhood with the participation of community leaders,

mayors, peasant associations, cooperatives, and churches. We need a community and participatory agenda dealing with the problems and hopes of the people themselves. They know their needs best. The development of the social agenda should go hand in hand with the people and their government. The people in each neighborhood and municipality, in a participatory and organized manner, and the government in a coordinated and efficient manner will work together to satisfy the basic needs of the poor.

Bearing in mind the requests made by the various community leaders, we will immediately promote and organize community committees in each municipality. Community leaders will be in charge of the committees. They will not only be in charge of drafting the social agenda but will supervise the implementation of the social works. In this new social model, man will be the subject and object of development. We are not simply creating a bureaucracy or an assistance program with the new ministry. We are creating a state organization with a minimum of personnel but with a great commitment to social causes. We are creating a ministry that can provide solutions for the needy and use the appropriate mechanisms to create jobs for many poor Nicaraguans.

To strengthen our social agenda and make it more efficient, the Social Action Ministry will directly coordinate bridge construction, national reconciliation and rehabilitation programs, the Emergency Fund for Social Investments, technical and vocational training, social assistance programs, and projects for small businesses and cooperatives.

Messrs. representatives, I invite you to join this effort to defeat poverty. On 25 April 1990 we set out to achieve peace and defeat war, and we won. The year 1993 will be the year of solidarity's revival. That is why I invite you, honorable deputies, I invite your political parties, associations, unions, churches, and everyone to promote together this economic growth in favor of the poorest sectors.

We will thus consolidate the peace achieved by my husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. He was assassinated 15 years ago for Nicaragua's peace, for saying: We want a peace based on a system that creates economic, social, and political conditions to meet the people's demands; a new system of life made to measure the aspirations and needs of Nicaraguans; a just and egalitarian society in which there is bread, education, health, and housing for all; a national community united in brotherhood and not separated by hatred.

That is the dream for which our people have struggle for many years. Their struggle and blood reinforces our commitment. We are willing to honor our commitment. Thank you very much. [applause]

Former EPS Member on Plot To Kill Politicians

PA0801162893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] We will now read a document delivered to the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission, CPDH, and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

A plan to assassinate renown politicians, including Agustin Jarquin, has been reported.

William Antonio Lopez Lopez, former member of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], has denounced a terrorist plan aimed at murdering 11 well-known national politicians before the CPDH. In the EPS, Lopez was an engineer; in other words, he was trained in sabotage, and according to the document, he was assigned to the General Staff.

In the document, Lopez adds that, on 6 December 1992, Martin de Los Angeles Bucardo Garcia and Jose Alfredo Aguirre, who are also former members of the EPS, and a foreigner who did not identify himself, appeared at his home in El Realejo, Corinto Department, to propose to him that he join them to murder 11 of the country's political leaders. They showed him several photographs of the persons who would supposedly be murdered. He could only recognize Agustin Jarquin Anava.

The three men were traveling in a red Toyota Landcruiser with license plate MW-52-36, and offered William Antonio Lopez 5,000 cordobas for each politician killed. According to his own words, Lopez refused to carry out the murders. This enraged the foreigner, who identified himself as a diplomat and was carrying a Dragonov rifle, two 9-mm pistols, and a .357 caliber revolver. The foreigner told him to carry out the murders or pay with his life as he already knew of the alleged plot.

The former soldier adds in his statement that for that reason he had to take Rosa Estela Rodriguez Lopez, his mother, and his daughter Hazel Alexandra Mendoza Lopez, 9, to Honduras for their safety.

The three men in the red Toyota reappeared at Lopez' home on 1, 2, 3, and 4 January to pressure him into carrying out the murders. The foreigner told him there would be a meeting at the Inter-Continental Hotel on 5 January at 2100 [0300 GMT on 6 January] to fill in the details regarding the first victim. The first murder was to be carried out on 7 January, but it is not known who that person would be. Lopez was also told he had to use explosives to blow up the offices of the UDC [Christian Democratic Union] in Managua.

On his own, Lopez went to the UDC offices to warn them of the affair. He also said an EPS soldier on active duty, who lives in the military colony located in front of the offices of the General Staff, would provide the explosives and ammunition for the Dragonov rifle.

According to William Antonio, the foreigner is holding the EPS file on him.

In light of the seriousness of William Antonio Lopez' denunciation, the CPDH is undertaking investigations to determine whether the denunciation is legitimate and, taking into account the murder of Arges Sequeira as a precedent, has immediately demanded that the authorities begin an investigation into the specific information mentioned in the document and provide protection for Lopez and the persons mentioned as possible victims. The case has also been brought to the attention of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the government has been asked to give priority to this affair.

Godoy Comments on Political Crisis

PA0901041493 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1400 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Interview with Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes by Luis Mora Sanchez during the "Topics and Debates" program; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mora] Please give us your opinion on the current political crisis in Nicaragua.

[Godoy] It was expected, considering how events have developed in our country since 25 April 1990. We must remember that on that day the Nicaraguan people received the first bucket of cold water when the president announced that General Humberto Ortega would remain indefinitely in his post as Army commander, until she decided otherwise. This was expected to be a temporary measure. Although it was rumored that Gen. Ortega would remain in that position only until 6 December 1990, nothing happened on that date, and years have passed without any change. On the contrary, Ortega announced a few weeks ago his determination to remain as head of the Army until at least 1997, defying the president.

In addition to that, the president made a 180-degree turn away from her electoral promises. She did not comply with and ignored the Bambana commitments signed on 1 February 1990, 25 days before the elections. The president ignored the plan for a national salvation government she had promised to implement. That was the beginning of what the public, the Nicaraguan people, and politicians refer to as the cogovernment.

Afterward, tension began to mount, particularly between the executive and legislative branches, which also involved the Supreme Court of Justice in an attempt to besiege the National Assembly. All this was being handled strictly within the political arena until 28 and 29 December when, in an unprecedented act in our national history—this had never happened before, not even under the Sandinists or Somozists, or at any other time—the president signed an executive decree ordering the military to occupy the Legislative Assembly. For practical reasons, the decree also ordered the overthrow of members of the Board of Directors that was legally established two years ago, whose term is about to end.

This action not only meant denying, disregarding, and turning our backs on political commitments, but represented a break in the constitutional order, because our laws do not give the executive branch any authorization or power to interfere with the legislative branch, much less to annul its actions, which is what was done in this case through a presidential decree.

This has led the country to a crisis of great proportions that has resulted in an international scandal, because it was at least believed that the people had placed all their hopes in this government to bring democracy to Nicaragua, which was not only suspended, but broken by a totally illegal action which, as I said, annuls the legislative branch.

[Mora] Mr. Godoy, what [word indistinct] in this country. This morning, while you were being interviewed by a Colombian radio station, it was said that you thought President Chamorro should resign. Do you think President Chamorro should resign?

[Godoy] I do not really know where that came from. [passage omitted] It was not based on any statements of mine, not even made as a personal opinion. I said President Chamorro must rectify the course she took on 29 December and repeal the presidential decree by which she militarily invaded the National Assembly, overthrowing its Board of Directors, which was legally elected on 9 January 1990... [pauses] 1991. Next we may see our path leading toward a new dictatorship, under the direction of the presidency minister, who is overshadowing the president.

There is no constitutional procedure in Nicaragua that would allow us to try the president or to carry out some sort of legal action similar to that known in the United States as impeachment. Such action led to the trial [as heard] of President Richard Nixon and, in Brazil, the trial of President Collor de Mello. Nicaragua has no such recourse, so the most dangerous thing would be for us slide into a civilian-military dictatorship, headed by Antonio Lacayo and Humberto Ortega, the two main authors of the so-called treason protocol of 28 March 1990.

[Mora] The grand circus is to take place on 9 January. A group of Sandinist deputies will elect their own Board of Directors, tailor made to their own image of what is foreseen as a new dictatorship, led by outlaws Lacayo and Gen. Ortega. What should the Nicaraguan people do? Should they do anything? Can they do anything? What?

[Godoy] I believe the Nicaraguan people are obliged to resist all these measures of force and illegal actions by resorting to all legal civil action granted by the Constitution and the law. The right to demonstrate, the right to

free expression, and the right to petition must be exercised to try and safeguard the democratic process, which is being destroyed by these illegal decisions. These decisions have been rejected by everyone in the country except by those in the government who support the coup and the Sandinist faction at the assembly, led by Sergio Ramirez Mercado. Mercado admitted during a breakfast meeting at the Venezuelan Embassy with Luis Humberto Guzman that he suggested the idea of invading the National Assembly.

The Nicaraguan people are learning about their reality, about those who are now removing their masks to show the type of people they really are. In this case, evidently, the figures behind the scenes are Gen. Humberto Ortega and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who have no sense of democracy, and therefore act on an authoritarian basis to try and impose a new dictatorship on our country.

[Mora] It has always been said that struggling and protesting is the people's last resort. But when we speak of protest, we cannot include premeditated crime and murder; we cannot include robbery; we cannot include immorality, and this is why we must protest. There is now talk of demonstrations and the people are being summoned. I would like to know what methods of protest, legitimate protest, are there? What can Nicaraguans do? Can we speak of protest based on vandalism?

[Godoy] It appears that the improvised demonstration organized by the National Opposition Union [UNO] leaders on 6 January in Managua was an example of how things must and can be done. The route used was not the one listed as part of the activities, but it reflected the civic maturity and the political quality of UNO members, because there was not one single stone thrown at a window, or a single car damaged, and no one was hurt. There was not one incident of vandalism. It was a very orderly, polite, and well carried out civil protest demonstration from beginning to end. This marks a clear difference between the savage displays of the Sandinist demonstrations, which are always accompanied by destruction, aggression, threats, and attempts to disrupt civil order.

[Mora] It has been said that the UNO deputies are going to retreat and not participate in the show, the circus. This means the Chamorro-Lacayo-Ortega administration intends to elect its own Board of Directors. It means that, if the UNO members leave, the government that won over the Sandinists would be left out in the cold. They would be left alone, am I right? The Sandinist party would then become a ruling minority. Some analysts say this would mean the government would lose its legality and legitimacy. The logical thing is for them to rule with the people who brought them to power and not with their adversaries. I would like to hear your opinion on this, but I would also like....

[Godoy, interrupting] The loss of legitimacy stems from its own behavior and conduct. If the government had not issued the 29 December resolution, one could talk of unfaithfulness, disloyalty, and a lack of responsibility in carrying out its duty. In this case, however, a government that has been preaching both locally and abroad that its purpose is to worsen the state of law, that goes ahead and interrupts democratic order, is a government that strips away its own legitimacy. So, when they elect the Board of Directors in an assembly that has been overthrown by military force and is being run by an improvised temporary directorate, put together by the executive branch, and completely submitted to the minority party, whatever comes from such an election will appear to be not only illegal but illegitimate, too. It will not represent the voters choice in 1990.

The executive branch, by adopting this measure, has dragged the country into a grave situation, which could lead to the immoral and shameless installation a new dictatorship headed by Gen. Ortega and Mr. Antonio Lacayo, as I said earlier. [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Presents 'Irrevocable' Resignation

PA0801164793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Danilo Lacayo has confirmed that Dr. Alejandro Bolanos resigned from his post as deputy minister of the presidency on 7 January. On confirming the resignation, Lacayo said that although all ministers, deputy ministers, and directors of autonomous agencies have presented their resignations as is customary, the Bolanos resignation had been presented as irrevocable.

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro will probably appoint a new deputy presidency minister on 10 January, when changes or confirmations in the present cabinet will be announced.

Panama

Group Protests Near Southern Command Headquarters

PA1001153493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] On 9 January members of the Committee for the Rescue of the Sovereignty staged a protest at the entrance to Southern Command Headquarters in commemoration of the 9 January 1964 incidents.

The protesters shouted slogans against the U.S. presence in Panama and burned a U.S. soldier in effigy.

Other activities in memory of the martyrs included marches to the Jardin de Paz and Amador Cemeteries.

where improvised meetings were held during which the U.S. and current Panamanian Governments were strongly criticized.

When the marchers passed in front of the jail where several officials of the previous government are being held, the prisoners, including Dignity Battalion Chief Benjamin Colamarco, took advantage of the opportunity to wave Panamanian flags and shout slogans against the United States.

There was no official ceremony in Panama City in memory of the Panamanians who died in the 1964 incidents.

Bishops Address Issue of Amnesty, Corruption

PA0801201593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The Panamanian Catholic Church has expressed its support for amnesty for crimes falling under the categories of electoral crimes, actions against freedom of speech and individual freedom, and crimes against state security. However, it rejected any amnesty for those involved in the crimes of torture, homicide, rape, and embezzlement.

A communique issued on 7 January by the Panamanian Bishops Conference (CEP), the church's highest decisionmaking body, stated that an amnesty law should benefit all those prisoners who, according to the crime with which they are charged, have already served the sentence such a crime carries.

"It should also include those whose judicial proceedings have not been carried out according to the law. It is understood that this measure would include all prisoners, without necessarily being linked to events that occurred as a result of the invasion," the document added.

The proposals emerged on 7 January at the end of the CEP's first ordinary meeting of 1993. The discussions began on 4 January. Its next meeting will be in July. Archdiocesan spokesman Luis Alberto Diaz said that topics dealing with ethics and morals are usually discussed in these CEP meetings and the issue of amnesty is such a topic.

The bishops warned that the lack of political resolve on the part of the government, which has been unable and unwilling to heed the recommendations of the National Reconciliation Commission, and the delaying tactics used by the lawyers of the prisoners from the previous regime, have prevented a solution of the amnesty issue.

The CEP stated that a "national cleansing" effort is needed to eliminate legal and social injustice, to eradicate corruption and impunity, to recover truth, to defend life, to make reconciliation possible, to fight poverty, and to end scheming and division.

"If in the past we were able to unite our efforts and create mechanisms for peaceful change, this is also possible today if we unite in a national concerted effort to seek joint solutions and to prepare the environment, standards, and plans for the 1994 elections," the CEP stated in its conclusions.

The bishops reiterated the commitment of the archdiocesan Commission for Justice and Peace, chaired by Stanley Muschett, rector of the Santa Maria La Antigua University, USMA. Its commitment is to study the cases and proceed with the solutions which, "without being the result of political deals or schemes, but of a sincere moral and evangelical attitude, are an expression of the desire for the most basic brotherhood and unity of all Panamanians."

The bishops stated that the atmosphere of frustration and confusion continues because, in general, the aspirations for social peace and well-being have not been met and charges, conflicts, disputes, even among government officials, have been unleashed, undermining the people's trust.

The bishops added that a clear sign of the division in the country is the exaggerated proliferation of political parties for the next elections. This shows a lack of credibility in the existing participatory structures and "what is even more serious, a tremendous struggle for power on the basis of individual interests."

The document added: "Reports of past and present corruption, contraband, drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement of public funds, the political use of such funds, and so forth, are no secret. Most of these activities are carried out by white-collar criminals without anyone putting a stop to them."

The church hierarchy expressed its condemnation of the growing social, criminal, and terrorist violence.

The bishops also condemned the uncontrolled informative method of some media. The CEP stated that because of this, one no longer knows what is true or false, adding that such reporting affects the honor of individuals and institutions.

The Catholic Church concluded stating it is essential that plans and campaigns be reinitiated to recover civic, social, and moral values by promoting new attitudes. "Among these plans, we applaud and support the movement led by the USMA for the approval of the Code on the Family and Children," the communique stated.

Government Minister Responds to Bishops

PA0901194593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 1-A

[Report by Irene Hernandez and Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier says he understands the Catholic Church's desire for the Panamanian people to reach an understanding, but he

reiterated that the government cannot reconcile with "individuals who go about placing bombs."

Regarding the questions posed by the Catholic Church in its latest episcopal message, Chevalier said he believes that all the churches say a good many things in different countries. "You know what happened to the church during the past dictatorship. They held black masses and supported everything the military did and I still cannot see what the church has done about that," he said.

Chevalier made these remarks during a ceremony to present a cabinet decree which grants incentives to the transportation sector.

He acknowledged the bishop's recommendations regarding the need to struggle against corruption, drug trafficking, monopolies and influence peddling, but he explained that these ills affect not only Panama but every other nation.

So far, Chevalier said, reconciliation has not progressed because "one cannot negotiate with terrorists who go about placing bombs in public places and attacking their own fellow citizens."

Meanwhile, Legislator Arnulfo Escalona, president of the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), criticized the role played by the Panamanian Catholic Church. He said that "our holy church gets involved in issues that come very close to politics and I believe the Episcopal Conference's message is quite political."

The Catholic Church recently expressed support for an amnesty broken down by categories such as electoral crimes, misdeeds against freedom of expression, crimes against individual freedom, and crimes against the state, but denied these benefits to those who perpetrated common crimes such as torture, homicide, rape, and embezzlement.

Escalona explained that he had not read the full text of the ecclesiastic document and that to avoid making a mistake he would closely examine the communique issued by the church representatives to determine if their statement was political or a "divine message."

The PLA legislator pointed out that discussions on the issue of poverty are too politicized and that individuals, the government, and also the church are responsible for this.

Escalona said the episcopate's work in the countryside has not been very good and the poor need more support, development, and attention.

The legislator underlined the social and economic problems that exist in Herrera Province where, in his opinion, the Catholic Church can do more for the peasants than it has done so far.

In Escalona's opinion, the church should foster a broader distribution of its wealth among the peasant sector, because "the Catholic Church cannot be described as poor."

Endara Responds to Church Statement

PA0901212393 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said on 9 January that he will fire any government official who is accused of corruption by the Catholic Church. He was alluding to a communique issued recently by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, which denounces a number of irregularities within the government, among them corruption and the embezzlement of government funds.

At an event in Concepcion, Chiriqui, where President Endara presented over 200 land titles to peasants, he invited the bishops to work with the cabinet council to find solutions to the country's problems.

In Concepcion Endara attended a mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in commemoration of Martyr's Day. He was accompanied by the first lady, ministers of state, directors of state institutions, and members of his party.

The government team visited La Candelaria fair grounds, where farmers were waiting. The local farmers were presented with 230 land titles. President Endara took advantage of the occasion to refer to the Panamanian Episcopal Conference's public letter, which deals with government corruption.

[Begin Endara recording] At present this meeting [with the Episcopal Conference] is a priority for the president. This meeting must be held as soon as possible, because more than any other issue—the episcopate's letter brings up many other interesting issues—corruption is a vital point. The Panamanian Episcopal Conference and the Panamanian Government must discuss this. The result of our meeting will necessarily have to be a radical and traditional change throughout the government. [applause]. Many heads must roll, many heads must fall, and many people must be fired because we cannot tolerate corruption.

Until now, those who had spoken of corruption were a few crazy, bitter people like the former first vice president [Ricardo Arias Calderon] and other politicians. [applause] They spoke of corruption without any proof and without specifics. We are no longer dealing with these individuals but with all the bishops of the Republic of Panama gathered in the Panamanian Episcopal Conference. These are not gossip mongers or rumor mongers. When they make a statement in a document it is because they have thought it over and know it is the truth. They must tell this truth when I meet with them. [applause]

I pledge, the president of the Republic solemnly and formally pledges, I swear it, I pledge [applause] that the individuals they name as corrupt or involved in the misuse of government funds, or who use government funds for political purposes, any government employee they name, will be immediately fired. [applause]

Moreover, the bishops are of a quality such that, in my opinion, their word is sufficient. They need not provide proof. Later on, when the attorney general conducts the investigation, I know that the bishops will not tell lies; they will provide proof to the Attorney General's Office. But they need not present any proof; it is enough for them to say John Doe and Richard Roe. [applause]

This is why, ladies and gentlemen, I believe this meeting will be a milestone for my government. I have not considered any other meeting to be as important. I am certain that there will be no meeting more important than this one during my entire government. That is why I am willing to cancel all other appointments, and I will ask my ministers to do the same, to meet with the distinguished bishops and resolve this problem once and for all. [end recording]

On the afternoon of 9 January the president will inaugurate a number of projects in Puerto Armuelles.

Endara Gives Weekly News Conference

PA0801214593 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Weekly news conference by President Guillermo Endara with local reporters and Presidential Press Secretary Rene Hernandez as moderator at the Palace of the Herons in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hernandez] Carlos Somera of FM 99.

[Somera] I have two questions, Mr. President. From the beginning of your administration Panama has been the victim of terrorist attacks by as yet unidentified groups. An electoral campaign is approaching and actions such as these may be very dangerous. My question is: What does your government plan to do about this situation?

[Endara] It is not easy to combat terrorism, and that can be confirmed by governments that have very well developed police forces. England, for example, with its centenary, world renown Scotland Yard is often unable to determine who has perpetrated a terrorist act. Even in today's England it is difficult to combat and investigate terrorism. Nevertheless, I must say that we are making every effort, we are investigating all we can regarding the most recent events as well as other incidents. The Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] is in charge of those investigations, but we are providing all the help we can to other government institutions.

In the case of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE], as you know the Institute has offered a $25,000 reward for any information that would bring the perpetrators to trial. We are establishing procedures. For instance, in the specific case of power, which is so vital, the IRHE and the police are coordinating with each other to adopt better security measures. That is all I can say about this now.

[Somera] What is your government's position regarding the U.S. commercial tuna embargo on Panama?

[Endara] That is a difficult situation but—thank God—next week a U.S. commercial commission is coming here, not to discuss that issue exclusively but to discuss trade between Panama and the United States in general. I am certain the issue will come up during talks next week with that commission, and I hope we will reach an agreement.

[Somera] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Hernandez] Reporter Mara Rivera of channel four.

[Rivera] Mr. President, my question is on the tuna issue. Panama would lose $50 million in a six-month embargo. The director of marine resources says there is no apparent reason for the embargo. Has an investigation been conducted to determine whether Panama is truly violating international laws?

[Endara] I cannot tell you that Panama can determine whether or not certain laws are being violated. That is an allegation said to have been proven in the United States by a judge who knows the case. I believe the decision will not be made so much by the U.S. Government as by a judge in the California, if memory serves me correctly. Therefore, I cannot say the government has established that this happened, but that it has been decided by a judge in California. I understand it is the second or third decision on this case. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Eva Mantilla from a Panamanian daily.

[Mantilla] Good afternoon, Mr. President. You head a transition government. Could you evaluate that transition over the past three years? What do you think has been your outstanding achievement?

[Endara] In the sense that my government is not a provisional government, it is not a transitional government, either. Mine is a constitutional government that covers an established constitutional period. On the other hand, it is transitional because it represents a transition from the dictatorship that existed in 1989 to the democracy we are now building.

I think this transition government has had and still has fundamental missions. Its first political mission was to lead the nation away from a godlike dictator in a country that had no public liberties, where the media was being closed, where reporters were threatened and jailed, where there were no guarantees or habeas corpus, to a situation like the one we are creating today with full democracy and a separation of state branches. Here you find an independent judicial branch with which I do not interfere. Here you find an undoubtedly independent legislative branch. I do not meddle with that branch. They would not allow me to meddle, anyhow. The executive branch is also independent here. That is important in an effective democracy. This was not the situation in 1989.

All this is part of the transition regime. We are enjoying a freedom that some have described as excessive. Other countries that have also gone through transitional phases have given names to this phase. In Spain, for example, it was called the uncorking. Some Spanish newspapers carry very offensive cartoons. All this is part of the transition period, which I hope we will overcome soon.

We found a bankrupt state. Panama was broke commercially, industrially, and in terms of employment. We were not growing economically. We were in decline. Now the country is growing to a level that no other country in our hemisphere has reached. We have grown by more than 9.3 percent. I think our annual growth will be even higher. It is possible. Our economic progress is a source of envy in the hemisphere. We found a government that was broke. The National Bank vaults were empty and it was hugely overdrawn. There was no money at all.

We have brought liquidity to the National Bank thanks to Luis H. Moreno's great administration. The National Bank is in great shape now. In addition, with the fiscal discipline established by the government, particularly the comptroller general, who is criticized by so many people, the state's finances are in much better shape. The comptroller general has established a discipline that is unparalleled by anything preceding the democratic, transitional government over which I preside. This fiscal discipline has brought financial stability to the state.

We have had a budget for three years now. You must remember that during the dictatorship the budget was a piece of paper that was frequently trampled upon. During the last years of the dictatorship, there was not even a budget. For the past three years we have had budgets with which we have complied. We have even had budget surpluses. Other countries in our hemisphere are often facing budget deficits that they do not know how to finance except with inflation.

That has been one accomplishment of this government. We have solidified the state. Today we can afford to prepare a budget that includes large investments, which some envious Christian Democrats call a political budget. This budget is not political in nature. It is a budget that includes all types of investments and which emphasizes social development and society.

Unemployment was rampant when we took over this transitional government. The unemployment rate exceeded 20 percent. I think it was at 26 percent. We have lowered unemployment to less than 13 percent and we will continue to reduce it. New jobs have been created. In only one year 75,000 new jobs were created. That is the task of a provisional government.

Now, you should not think this represents a victory. There is still a lot to be done. That is why told the reporter who asked the last question that I cannot take a vacation because there is still a lot to be done in this country. There is no chance of taking a vacation with all the work that needs to be done.

I am sure I have forgotten many other details, but, in essence, that is the answer to your question. Thank you very much.

[Hernandez] Roberto Rodriguez of Radio KW Continente.

[Rodriguez] Mr. President, the Electoral Tribunal wants to reform the Electoral Code. It has even submitted a draft bill to your office. The bill contemplates a provision calling for elections earlier than scheduled. Will you convene special legislative sessions to discuss that Electoral Code, given that 1994 is just around the corner?

In addition, the budget to which you alluded has been termed political. Why were so many investments withheld during a preelection year? [sentence as heard]

[Endara] Concerning you first question, the Electoral Tribunal has indeed submitted a draft bill to the executive branch. As they do not have the power to submit bills before the Assembly, they asked us to present the draft bill before the Assembly. I considered the bill to be basically political and consulted the parties, who informed me that they wanted to review that bill. The parties said it was premature to call special legislative sessions when they needed to review the bill.

Regrettably, I was unable to meet the request of the Electoral Tribunal magistrates and could not include their proposed bill among the topics of discussions in the special legislative sessions. The parties asked me to give them the opportunity to evaluate the Electoral Code.

The Electoral Code does not contemplate a provision to hold the elections ahead of schedule. According to informal conversations we have had, we agreed to hold the next elections on 8 May 1994. It is not my duty to say this officially, because that is the Electoral Tribunal's task. I just want to make it clear that the 1994 elections will not be advanced. The previous elections were held on 7 May 1989, and the next elections will be held on 8 May 1994.

What was your second question?

[Hernandez] In reference to the budget.

[Endara] I already mentioned why this year's budget is large. We have taken such significant fiscal discipline measures during these years of government that we are already seeing the fruits of our sacrifice.

We may now utilize funds that we never had in the early years of our government, and we can truly afford the luxury of investing. This budget has nothing to do with politics; that is the mentality of certain members of political parties that I mentioned before and will not mention again. This budget is for projects. I see nothing particularly political about providing a town with a highway, which is a social project, or building a medical center or hospital in San Miguelito. The construction of the hospital is not prompted by the elections but by the

fact that it is urgently needed in San Miguelito. Therefore, there is nothing political about the project; it is a social project.

[Hernandez] Justino Gonzalez of CRITICA LIBRE newspaper.

[Gonzalez] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Recently my newspaper published a report on ranking government officials implicated in illicit drug trafficking. The most recent case was that of Darien Governor Leida Alarcon, who was named in a PTJ intelligence report as a protector and participant in money laundering and in a huge drug trafficking network in that province. I wanted to ask you if you already received the PTJ report on this case. If not, your press secretary can immediately print for you a copy of the official report where this ranking official is implicated in the illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.

[Endara] Of course. You can give the secretary the document, but I think it would be more appropriate for the PTJ to notify their superiors within the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office. I am surprised that the PTJ has not done this. It is not up to me to report incidents like these. I think that if the PTJ has this information it should report it. I have not received any proof whatsoever regarding the government official you mentioned. If I receive it, I will definitely have to take measures, but I have received nothing and, unfortunately, an intelligence report does not constitute proof. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Alberto Sanchez of ACAN-EFE.

[Sanchez] Good afternoon. Mr. President, how will the Panamanian Government pay the $243 million it owes Venezuela and Mexico for oil received through the San Jose Pact? The comptrollership has told us there is no money for that purpose.

[Endara] Our economic situation is improving daily. Unfortunately, we cannot immediately pay all of the debts we inherited from the dictatorship. Thank God, neither Mexico nor Venezuela are demanding immediate payment. They have asked us to negotiate an arrangement for payment, and we are willing to reach a good agreement. It is a debt that must be paid but we cannot do so from funds that must be allotted for our development and population. We must make an arrangement whereby we can pay without imposing too much of a sacrifice on the people. I am sure we will reach an agreement on this issue.

[Hernandez] Valerio Abrego of Telemetro Panama.

[Abrego] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Please allow me to ask you two questions.

[Endara] Of course.

[Abrego] First, although we are talking about how solid your government is and about this period of change you describe as very positive, we see there is still concern among various sectors of the Panamanian people because there is a need for your government to be more dynamic in meeting many needs; for example, the lack of roads in many areas, the lack of medicine in hospitals, the high level of unemployment, and a number of similar situations. Many of these things are attributed to a lack of dynamism on the part of your administration and cabinet. What can we tell the Panamanian people? Is there going to be a greater response and greater participation by your government in meeting the people's needs this year and next?

[Endara] I appreciate the question because it coincides with what I have been saying. I have said that gradually, as our transition government and the country progress, as things become clearer, and as the treasury's financial situation improves, we can do more. This year, for example, we are doing a lot more than in past years. I repeat that this has generated envy among members of certain parties. They say we are doing these things because we are in a preelection year. The fact is that we are simply able to do more, so we are doing more.

We know the Panamanian people are impatient, and rightly so, because that is how people progress. People do not progress when they are complacent. They lie down in a hammock to enjoy the breeze. People make progress when they are impatient and want more and more. It is because we know the people are calling for roads, schools, hospitals, and health centers that we have increased the budget and increased investment, not to wage a political campaign but because it is what the people want. Others would like us to hold on to sums of money that we could invest and thereby fail to meet the people's demands. We are heeding these increasing demands from the people, and I like to see the people demand dynamism from the cabinet and the people because it is a way to prod us, to force us to work even harder instead of taking vacations, as has been suggested here.

[Abrego] Mr. President, the second question is: As we already know, the U.S. president-elect will take office on 20 January. We see the embargo that the United States has placed on Panama regarding the tuna issue. What are your prospects regarding economic relations with the U.S. president-elect, and what can you predict regarding future relations with the United States?

[Endara] Every report I have seen indicates that things will be exactly as I had foreseen and announced to you. Nothing will change. In essence, nothing will change. Relations between Panama and the United States will remain on the same course as at present. We might have a new ambassador, because you know that Ambassador Hinton is a man of some years. He plans to retire and he has told me so. I do not know when he will do so. We will have a new ambassador with a different personality, but nothing will change. The fact that a young man comes to replace an older one will not change our relationship. I maintain that it will be substantially the same, with different people but a substantially unchanged relationship.

[Moderator] The last question will be asked by Ricardo Samaniego of Televisora Nacional.

[Endara] You should have skipped him. [chuckles]

[Samaniego] In his statements, the attorney general mentions a governmental economic problem, which he says represents millions of dollars. In addition, on several occasions he has reiterated charges of corruption by a political group in power. My first question is: As this is affecting your image and that of your government, what is your position on those charges?

[Endara] I believe the exchange of accusations that is taking place does not merit comment from the president. That would give it stature. On other occasions I have refrained from responding to this bickering and I will do so now and in the future. I do not believe the president of the Republic should engage in gossip.

[Samaniego] Is Rogelio Cruz still your friend, Mr. President?

[Endara] Yes. I have known Rogelio Cruz ever since he was a law student because he worked in the same building as a lawyer with whom we had close links. Since then we have maintained good personal relations. He calls me his friend, and I believe he is my friend.

[Announcer] Thank you, esteemed listeners of KW Continente. This is the end of the news conference held by President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

PRD Secretary General Sues Comptroller, Government

PA0701224093 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon and Irene Hernandez]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), filed suit on 6 January against Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles and the current government on charges of alleged abuse and overstepping of authority.

According to Perez Balladares, the government used 256 million balboas from the budgets of decentralized agencies to pay international financial institutions (IFI's) without authorization from the Legislative Assembly in plenum or the Assembly Budget Commission.

Perez Balladares added that the payment was made as a result of an alleged internal agreement between Carles and Delia Cardenas, minister of planning and economic policy. He said it was supposed to be repaid at the end 1992, but was not.

"This act was totally outside the law. It is not permitted and is illegal; therefore, we demand that those responsible be identified and punished," Perez Balladares said.

The PRD secretary general said the suit is accompanied by the necessary evidence, including a memorandum sent by Comptroller Carles to Minister Cardenas requesting that she "save his face" with the IFI's, and promising to repay the amount (256 million balboas) before the end of the year.

A week ago, Minister Cardenas told reporters at the Presidential Palace that the Legislative Assembly had indeed authorized the use of that sum for the payment of interest on the foreign debt to the IFI's. "If the minister said that, she was lying, and she will have to answer to the law," the opposition leader said.

Vice President Guillermo Ford said the PRD has the right to file as many suits as it wishes and all of them will be heard, although he would prefer that this be done in the courts and not in the media.

Ford said the payment was authorized by the Assembly Budget Commission, as was recorded in the Commission's minutes for 25 August 1992.

Asked again about whether the decision was supported by the plenum, Ford said the Commission, not the plenum, grants such authorizations. According to Ford, the PRD can say whatever it wishes, since the suit it filed is no more than "grasping at straws."

Carles dismissed the importance of the PRD suit, saying that political party "can do whatever it wishes," because the payments to the IFI's were made in strict adherence to commitments to those international credit organizations.

Carles said the latest payments made to the IFI's were to pay off overdue debts that had been contracted by the military regime. He added: "They (PRD) are responsible for the fact that those obligations were not met."

The comptroller general explained that the funds used to pay some of Panama's overdue debts with those institutions came from grants and loans from other countries that were channeled directly through New York.

In other words, Carles said, the transactions were not carried out in Panama or discussed with local institutions, because those commitments are carried out directly in the United States (when foreign funds are involved).

According to Carles, there was nothing irregular about those payments.

The comptroller general said the funds acquired by Panama to comply with those commitments came from loans from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Japanese Government; from funds that had been retained in the United States, and from donations made by the U.S. and French Governments.

Argentina

Hurd Discusses Falklands Issue With Di Tella

PY0901171693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2305 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (TELAM)—Douglas Hurd, British Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary, told his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, today that there "will not be exploration or exploitation" of oil around the Malvinas Islands "without an agreement" on the issue by the two nations.

This was reported this afternoon by a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source who participated in the two countries' first working meeting within the framework of Hurd's three-day official visit to Buenos Aires.

The British, who until now have carried out "only prospecting tasks," have expressed "their commitment not to advance" into oil exploration or exploitation "before reaching a bilateral agreement" on the matter, a diplomat said.

The Foreign Ministry official said "economic issues predominated" during Di Tella and Hurd's two meetings in the morning and afternoon, particularly "trade increases and English investments" in Argentina.

The source also said Hurd was interested in "beginning negotiations with Argentina on a 'double taxation'" agreement that will help the entry of British capital, the origin of which will be clearly determined.

The source said that for the Argentine Government, Hurd's proposal "means a great step forward in relations" similar to that achieved with the signing of the treaty on promotion and protection of investment guarantees "that was ratified by the British Parliament some time ago."

Talking with reporters at the meeting's end, Di Tella was "very optimistic because of the good results" from the meeting, where the representatives analyzed almost exclusively "the cooperation possibilities between the two countries."

Twelve officials from both governments participated in the meetings between Di Tella and Hurd. Attending were Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, Foreign Policy Under Secretary Rogelio Pfirter, Argentine Ambassador to London Mario Campora, and Humphrey Maud, the United Kingdom's ambassador to Buenos Aires.

Around midday the two diplomats drove to the Olivos residence to meet President Carlos Menem in a strictly protocol meeting that lasted one hour. During the meeting, Menem and Hurd discussed several aspects of the two countries's relations and international topics of the day.

At the meeting's end, Hurd returned to the Foreign Ministry to participate in a luncheon in his honor given by his colleague Di Tella. Some 100 guests attended the luncheon, including politicians, diplomats, and officials from both governments.

In the afternoon, the bilateral talks were resumed during an almost one-hour-long meeting that ended the foreign ministers' official activities for 7 January.

On 8 January, Hurd will conclude his official visit with an agenda that includes breakfast with entrepreneurs, another meeting with Di Tella, and a meeting with Radical Civic Union Senator Fernando de la Rua. Hurd then will hold a news conference in which he will evaluate his visit to Argentina.

Holds News Conference

PY0901001393 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1743 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jan (TELAM)—Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs, today said he favors continuing "the protective umbrella formula" over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. "Although one visit cannot work miracles," he said, "substantial progress" has been made "in normalizing relations with Argentina."

The head of the British Foreign Office ended his official visit to Argentina with a news conference in which he evaluated the activities of his three days in this capital.

Hurd said he is "very satisfied" with the results of this visit, adding that upon his return to London he will speak of the "good predisposition I found in Argentina to reconstruct our friendship, brick by brick."

Although Hurd said that "one visit cannot work miracles," the one that ended today "has been very useful." He added that he was "surprised" at the "tact and professionalism" with which he was received in Buenos Aires.

The chief of British diplomacy denied that his government considers the Malvinas sovereignty issue "frozen," but added that "for the time being it is convenient to continue the protective umbrella formula," a juridical formula agreed upon by the two Foreign Ministries in 1989.

Regarding the future relationship between Argentina and the Kelpers [Falkland islanders], Hurd said that "only the islanders can decide, from their autonomous position, whether or not to resume contacts with the Argentine continent and authorize the resumption of communications" that were interrupted during the Malvinas War in 1982.

The British secretary of state said that "it is incorrect to think that there are some conditions" on an official visit by President Carlos Menem to the United Kingdom.

The presence of the Argentine president in London "would be appreciated by us as a great event," he said.

clarifying that "the key to a successful outcome is to find the appropriate moment, and this has yet not happened."

The British official appreciated the efforts "by President Menem to strengthen democracy and to introduce economic changes." As proof of this he said that "visits by government officials of the two countries increased by 50 percent" between 1991 and 1992.

During the 40 minute news conference, which was also attended by British Ambassador Humphrey Maud, Hurd said that British companies currently feel "encouraged by the successful privatization program" in Argentina.

Hurd added that the businessmen are returning "to London full of enthusiasm over the investment possibilities in this country." As an example he mentioned the gas and electricity companies which "are interested in increasing their activities in Argentina."

British Gas heads the consortium that won the bid for the distribution of gas in Buenos Aires Province and which will make short term investments. The same company previously won the bid for the exploitation of the Puesto Hernandez oil field in Neuquen Province.

Hurd then said that during 1992, trade exchange between the two countries "increased considerably to 220 million pounds." He said that more than "40 British companies are investing in Argentina," which "shows the confidence in this country."

As for the situation in the South Atlantic, he said "we both expressed our position of sovereignty" over the islands, adding that during his visit "it has not been necessary to further discuss the subject," about which he admitted there continue "to exist genuine differences."

When asked about the policy of hydrocarbons in the archipelago, the British official said: "We are currently making progress with two companies in the seismic work" and "we do not exclude the possibility of cooperation with Argentina in the upcoming stages" of the exploration and exploitation of resources.

Hurd then expressed his "satisfaction" at the temporary fishing agreement reached before Christmas by the two countries. "We have already agreed to begin negotiating another long-term agreement," he said, which would include the preservation of squid, which "is a shared resource," and the active participation of the islanders.

The news conference marked the end of Hurd's official activities in this country. He will this afternoon pay a private visit to the city of Azul, in Buenos Aires Province, to stay at the ranch of his friend Thomas Gibson, where he will rest until the morning of 10 January when he will depart for Santiago, Chile.

Concludes Visit, Leaves for Chile

PY1001212693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1321 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (TELAM)—British Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary Douglas Hurd left today at 1110 [1310 GMT] from the international airport in Ezeiza aboard a British Air Force airplane bound for Chile to continue with his tour of various Latin American countries.

Before leaving, the UK foreign affairs secretary met Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella at the Centurion Hall of the Ministro Pistarini air terminal. The issues discussed during this meeting were not disclosed.

President Unveils 'Ambitious New Social Plan'

PY0801235593 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] President Carlos Menem yesterday unveiled his ambitious new social plan through which 1.5 billion dollars will be spent over the next three years to create more than 20,000 jobs and improve health care, while giving workers the freedom to choose their health plans.

"We seek a humanized and social capitalism," Menem said in a nationwide radio and television broadcast. Provisions are made in the plan for optimizing the country's infrastructure, especially in the provinces, improving sanitation facilities, and third-level education.

"The challenge will be properly employing the 47 billion pesos corresponding to this year's social spending," Menem said, adding that this figure is practically equal to the Argentine foreign debt.

Menem also signed a decree last night guaranteeing the free choice on health plans. Only one plan can be chosen by workers and there will be only one opportunity each year to choose or switch plans. The decree prohibits "in any form, direct or indirect, the centralizing of contribution payments."

More than a half-million poor Argentines will benefit from the new social plan's projects. According to government statistics about eight of the nation's 33 million inhabitants live in conditions of extreme poverty. Economic analysts estimate that a family of four needs 1,200 dollars a month to survive while the minimum salary is only 250 dollars a month.

The plan calls for significant increases in subsidies to workers' salaries. A 30-peso school subsidy will be pushed up to 125 pesos, with marriage subsidies rising from 150 to 250 pesos. Adoption subsidies will increase from 300 pesos to 1,250.

The President vowed to cut the infant mortality rates to the lowest levels in Latin America with the help of a 170-million-dollar World Bank loan. About 35 out of

every 1,000 infants die during childbirth in Argentina according to figures compiled by Unicef.

Another 435 million dollars in loans from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank will go to basic infrastructure improvements in the interior and the construction of 40 health centres. These public works projects "will allow the deficit in water supply to be reduced by nearly 25 percent in 1993 and by 75 percent by 1995," said Menem.

SIGEP [General Trusteeship of State Enterprises] state comptrollers will audit the management of the funds, while the programmers will be co-ordinated jointly by the Ministries of Health, Interior, Labour and Education and the office of the Presidential Chief-of-Staff.

Menem said that the social spending would not cause an increase in the 1993 budget. He said the total cost of these programmes "is closed to 1.5 or 1.6 billion pesos," and that all investments would be decentralized, with the active participation of provincial and municipal governments.

The following were among the details given yesterday on the wide-reaching programme:

—Two million children and 350,000 pregnant women will be benefit from a new infant-maternity nutrition and health programme. Neonatal equipment will be installed in 161 hospitals which will also distribute milk to 300,000 mothers and 700,000 children.

—Massive vaccination campaigns will be started against the measles, tetanus, hepatitis B, diptheria, tuberculosis and whooping cough.

—Some 170,000 children will benefit from day care programmes and 18,300 households will be included in new preferential care programmes.

—The Education Ministry will be given 50 million dollars to improve rural outpost schools, along with 166 million for similar works in Buenos Aires.

—Some 15 sanitation projects requiring 70 million pesos in investments will improve flood drainage.

—Through the national youth institute, some 30,000 young volunteers will campaign against AIDS and drug addiction.

—Some 300,000 dollars will alloted to an integrated social plan for pensioners to be used for food, housing and basic necessities.

—Over 5,000 jobs will be created in the poorest parts of the country, with another 1,000 jobs to be created for both the indigenous and disabled. Some 10,000 jobs will be created in the fields of health, education and social programmes.

—The plan calls for 65,000 family gardens to be planted, benefitting 325,000 people. Fifty small farms will be started to benefit 50,000 people and 80 community centres will be set up for the use of 140,000 residents of poor neighbourhoods.

—The plan will make a priority of professional education for young people looking for their first jobs.

Condor Missile Components Sent to Spain

PY1101024593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1901 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (EFE)—On 9 January, 12 [as received] Condor-2 intermediate-range missile motors and 30 seamless steel casings were shipped from an Argentine naval base to Spain, where they will be destroyed as a way of setting an example for countries that promote the proliferation of mass destruction weapons.

The Spanish Aerospace Technical Institute (INTA) will obtain the know-how [preceding word in English] on the building of these missiles in exchange for destroying them toward the end of January at some Mediterranean base whose name has not been revealed for security reasons.

In the midst of the missile crisis between Iraq and the United States and its allies, the story of the Condor missile program is of interest once more. [passage omitted]

Brazil

President Franco Meets With 19 Party Presidents

PY0901111593 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has announced a new era in government-political party relations. The president held a meeting with the presidents of all parties to hear suggestions for a joint government program.

The first to arrive was PRONA [National Order Redefinition Party] President Eneas Carneiro. The other presidents and ministers arrived soon afterward. It was the first time in the country's history that a president of the Republic met the presidents of 19 political parties.

President Itamar Franco opened the meeting with a five-minute speech. He said relations between the government and political parties are different now. Franco said the government alone cannot do much and wants parties to mediate with society.

His principles are ethics in politics, austere and responsible public activity, development with solidarity, social justice, and freedom with citizenship.

On the role of political parties, Franco said the president does not want unanimity. Opposition is desirable, healthy, and essential.

On the role of a president, Franco said the era of a president with nearly imperial powers has ended.

Planning Minister Paulo Haddad also spoke at the meeting. He made a quick summary of the government economic plan and reminded that the government cannot make miracles, or hope for development in Juscelino Kubitschek's style. The country will only defeat the crisis if there is a minimum level of understanding, Haddad concluded.

Government leaders in Congress spoke next. Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, stressed the importance of approving bills on the agenda of the special session of Congress. Pedro Simon, government leader in the Senate, said the purpose of the search for an understanding is to prepare the country for the next government, adding that one of those present at the meeting might be the country's future president.

Pedro Simon's message had the desired effect. After four and one-half hours during which each president was able to speak a little, government and political party representatives left satisfied.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Roberto Freire] Through dialogue we might be able to conclude some important national agreements and establish the conditions for governability.

[Democratic Social Party President Alvaro Dias] What we can conclude is that the government knows how to ask. The government is seeking a new path and is calling on all leaders to help in the search.

[Tasso Jereissati, president of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party] The purpose of all these meetings is dialogue. Support for the government is based on discussions and participation.

[Social Democratic Party President Paulo Maluf] There is goodwill. There is a lot of goodwill, which we need to go from goodwill to real life in a dynamic and productive way.

[Workers Party President Inacio Lula da Silva] There is no unconditional support, but neither is there unconditional opposition. We want to close agreements on issues that are important for the Brazilian people.

[Orestes Quercia, president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] The meeting was very positive because the president heard the opinion of all political parties' presidents. He now will evaluate these opinions. Besides, I understand he will convene these meetings on a regular basis.

[Jose Mucio Monteiro, acting president of the Liberal Front Party, PFL] The PFL will support the government on those items where the government is close to PFL positions. When we disagree, we will make democratic opposition. [end recording]

Protest Against U.S. Surtax To Be Filed With GATT

PY1001023893 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Jan 93 p 23

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Brazil will protest before GATT against the U.S. decision to surtax Brazilian steel, Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso reported yesterday. In a message released yesterday by Itamaraty, Cardoso reported that he instructed the Brazilian Embassy in Washington to inform U.S. authorities of Brazilian concern over the U.S. decision, and to investigate the reasons that led to the surtax.

The Brazilian delegation in Geneva, where GATT is headquartered, will also be instructed to coordinate a joint action within GATT with other countries harmed by the same U.S. measure. Cardoso also decided to summon steel businessmen to a meeting on 13 January, to evaluate the harm that the surtax will cause and to discuss the Brazilian position in this case.

The minister believes that Brazil needs more protectionist laws, and must not allow actions such as the one adopted by the United States to remain without an immediate reaction by the Brazilian Government.

"We must define a firm position before GATT in order to reverse measures such as this one," said the minister, who yesterday met with businessmen at Itamaraty Palace.

The U.S. Trade Department decided on 7 January that as of next 13 January, all U.S. importers of more than two kinds of Brazilian steel will have to pay a surtax. The U.S. Government accuses Brazil of dumping (offering a product below production costs in order to gain market share) practices.

This is not the first time Brazil has protested a U.S. decision in the steel sector. Last 1 December the Brazilian Government released a note on the surtax imposed on 30 November by the U.S. Government on U.S. importers of four kinds of steel.

Minister Cardoso yesterday promised the 14 businessmen who participated in the first meeting of the Permanent Business Committee [Comite Empresarial Permanente] the inclusion of a patent rights draft bill in the list of priority bills that the executive branch will send to Congress on 12 January. [passage omitted]

Antitank Missile Scheduled for Delivery to Army

PY1001215993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The first high-technology antitank missile, with which the Brazilian Army will be equipped by 1995, has been completed. The laser-guided MSS-1.2 (Missile Solo-Solo) will undergo operational tests in February in the Marambaia testing ground in Rio de Janeiro, and will be manufactured by a consortium

formed by the Aeromot Company from Rio Grande do Sul State; the OTO Melara Company from Italy; Imbel [War Materiel Industry], a state-owned company linked to the Army; and the Mectron Engenharia Company. Each missile will cost $25,000 (325 million cruzeiros at the commercial exchange rate), and the complete system (six missiles, a launcher, a training simulator, and two test modules) will cost $400,000 (5.2 billion cruzeiros).

The companies involved completed the weapon's development and made a token delivery to the Army in late December. The operational tests will be conducted between February and September, when the missile's manufacturing is scheduled to begin in Brazil and Italy. Mass production will begin within two years and by then the partners will decide on the market share and industrial property rights [propriedade industrial].

According to Army sources, a contract signed in 1986—stipulating that 50 percent of the project is owned by Brazil, the weapon will be manufactured simultaneously in Brazil and Italy, and export profits also will be equally shared—is current. Thus, the OTO Melara Company will manufacture the firing unit, the Aeromot Company will manufacture the electronics system, Copesp [Special Projects Coordinating Board] will manufacture the weapon's airframes and mechanical parts, and Imbel will assemble the systems and produce the fuel and the explosive charges. The Mectron Engenharia Company will develop and manufacture the firing simulators to train the operators and the test modules. The Army Technology Center, which has carried out 11 launches, is coordinating the project.

The MSS's impact is impressive. The 130-mm-caliber missile is 1.357 meter long and guided by a laser beam from the launcher to the target. The warhead, made of tungsten and a type of hardened uranium, can penetrate 750-mm-thick armored steel plates. The warhead carries four kg of explosives and totally destroys the enemy's tank.

Chile

Communique Signed With Peru on Border Issues

PY0801195193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The governments of Chile and Peru have agreed to resume talks on pending issues concerning the 1929 Border Treaty and its complementary protocol. In this regard, commissions have been appointed. These commissions will have a 60-day period to present their proposals to top officials in the respective Foreign Ministries.

This was reported in a joint communique issued by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Peruvian counterpart, Oscar de la Puente, who will conclude his official visit to our country today.

The pending points in the border issue between the two countries involve the Chinchorro area, the administration of the pier, and the railroad.

Hurd Arrives, Comments on Murder of Journalist

PY1101012693 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Douglas Hurd, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Chile today. Upon his arrival in Chile he commented on the murder of British journalist Jonathan Moyle.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma met his UK counterpart at the Santiago airport. Hurd, who is regarded as one of the UK's most influential politicians, said he has come to Chile prepared to strengthen ties. He added that Chile plays a key role in Latin America's economy. He stated that the murder of journalist Jonathan Moyle will be one of the issues he will raise during his Chilean tour.

[Begin Hurd recording in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] There is keen interest in this matter in Britain, and our interest is that there should be, as there is, a full and thorough investigation. [end recording]

During his 48-hour stay in Chile, the UK secretary of state will meet President Patricio Aylwin, Chilean cabinet members, and other government officials.

Military Geographic Institute Director Named

PY0801161093 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Dec 92 p C7

[Summary] Brigadier General Manuel Garate Meneses was installed as the Military Geographic Institute's new director, replacing Colonel Martin Munoz, who was named Aeronautic Polytechnic Academy director. Brigadier General Luis Iracabal Lobo was appointed the new director of Army Ordnance, replacing Brigadier General Carlos Carvallo Yanez, who retired voluntarily from the Army.

Colombia

Car Bomb Explodes in Medellin; Deaths Reported

PA0801132493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] There was a terrorist attack in the western part of Medellin on the night of 7 January. A car bomb exploded killing Juan De La Cruz Meneses Rodriguez and Oscar Nelson Jimenez Cuartas. The explosion also injured 39 persons and damaged approximately 40 automobiles.

Police Find Arms Cache During Escobar Search

PA1001210293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Lida Maria Vanegas]

[Text] Attention: Several operations are now under way to capture Pablo Escobar. The Medellin cartel chief is being sought throughout the Aburra Valley. Those operations led to the discovery of an arms cache containing material to carry out terrorist actions. Police discovered a farm called Caladaima in the highest section of the town of San Lucas. The farm is owned by Esau de Jesus Correa. Police found on the property all the necessary material to prepare several car bombs, as well as machine guns, explosives, military uniforms, and false license plates for the car bombs.

Here is Antioquia Police Commanding General Jairo Antonio Rodriguez.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] This operation was based on intelligence work and information gathered within the general framework of the plan against narcoterrorism. Regarding the cars that have affected the civilian population, you can see here the number of machine guns, explosives, and uniforms that have been found. This discovery by police authorities confirms the success of our struggle. [end recording]

Police, Army Implement 'Thorough' Purge

PA0801133493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Report by J.J. Pinilla]

[Text] The purge in the National Police and the Army is thorough. In Santa Fe de Bogota more than 200 policemen have been fired in less than a month, and a similar number will retire in the next few days. The purge in the police is based on the internal disturbance decree to make the corps more capable of confronting criminals and eradicating corrupt policemen.

The most frequent illegalities committed by the dismissed policemen were illegal arrest and raids, theft and illegal use of official weapons, torture of prisoners, misuse of confiscated vehicles, acceptance of bribes from drug traffickers to allow the sale of drugs, and—a very curious crime—forgery of citizens' reports and documents alleging spelling mistakes.

[Begin Metropolitan Police Commander Oscar Pelaez Carmona recording] We have dismissed the policemen where doubts and evidence existed that they did not honestly comply with their professional oath. [end recording]

While it rains at the police corps, it pours at the Army. More than 400 soldiers were dismissed in 1992. According to their transgressions, the separated officers and suboffficers will face criminal charges at military or civilian courts. The dismissals were mainly due to human rights violations, illegal operations, and abuse of authority.

This is not all. The cabinet forced the police and the Army to disburse 15 billion pesos to pay for their illegal actions last year. Thus, the intentions of the top police and Army commands for 1993 seems to be to launder their dirty laundry at home.

New Special Antiguerrilla Commando Created

PA0801140093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Report by Miriam Ortiz]

[Text] The antiguerrilla offensive continues in the country. In Granada, Meta Department, Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman inaugurated the first antiguerrilla Special Operations Commando Unit on 7 January. A total of 5,000 elite troops will reinforce the struggle.

For the time being, this unique special commando unit will form two mobile brigades in the country and two special forces units. A total of 5,000 men have been especially trained to fight under any situation and circumstance.

[Begin unidentified soldier recording] They ambushed us when we were climbing, but fortunately they were not successful because we sustained very few casualties. We feel brave with this weapon. This is the weapon that makes one succeed. I am proud of it. [end recording]

These are troops specializing in parachuting and antiguerrilla activities, as well as day and night operations. According to Gen. Norberto Adrada Cordoba, who is in charge of this commando unit, his soldiers are the best in the country.

[Begin Adrada recording] We are basically going to work in the area of intelligence to locate the bandits and conduct the most forceful operations possible. [end recording]

This special antiguerrilla commando unit is the Army's ace to deal with the guerrillas.

[Begin recording][Ortiz] What is the primary objective?

[Guzman] The primary objective is Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias Tirofijo, commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC].

[Ortiz] Who else?

[Guzman] The rest of the FARC leaders from Mobile Brigade No. 1, which we call the FARC secretariat. We are after Father Manuel Perez and Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, alias Senor Gabino, from Mobile Brigade No. 2. [end recording]

This special operations commando unit will not have a specific jurisdiction. Its area of operation will be the entire country, especially in the areas where the guerrillas are conducting actions.

When they are not fighting, they are training. The Special Rural Forces train at the base in Tolemaida and the Mobile Brigades train in Granada, Meta Department and Barrancabermeja, Santander Department.

Starting on the night of 7 January, the Army commander hopes to deal a serious blow on the guerrillas.

Navy Creates New Coast Guard Pacific Command

PA1001143293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Adriana Villamarin]

[Text] The Navy will increase its operations in the Pacific Ocean to counter narcoterrorism. The only mission to be carried out by the Navy's new Coast Guard Pacific Command will be to control the weapons, dynamite, and other explosives that arrive from Ecuador and Central America for armed groups and narcoterrorist organzations.

The operations group will operate like the National Army's mobile brigades. Its members will be able to mobilize themselves quickly throughout the coastal area and rivers that flow into Colombia's Pacific coast. The group's operations base will be at the naval complex at Malaga Bay.

[Begin Admiral Jose Ignacio Rozo recording] The Armed Forces command has given the orders to create the Coast Guard Pacific Command. [end recording]

The first men who will comprise the Coast Guard Pacific Command received special training in counterguerrilla operations and psychological actions. Upon direct orders from the Armed Forces command, the Navy has been authorized to promote officers and noncommissioned officers in active service before the scheduled time outlined in the corps regulations.

[Begin Admiral Rozo recording] The Armed Forces command has given the Naval School orders to reduce the preparation time. We will prepare officers in three years. [end recording]

The Coast Guard Pacific Command, meaning the Navy's mobile brigade, will begin operating in March.

• Economic Liberalization Brings Rise in Mergers

93SM0111B Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Dec 92 p 9A

[Text] The economic liberalization set in motion by the present government has generated the need for some national firms to merge.

This is the interpretation being placed on the 19 authorizations issued over the past two months by the Superintendency of Industry and Trade enabling the merger of companies with assets totaling 103 billion pesos.

These mergers were approved because they would not generate a negative impact on the market, says Superintendent Jose Orlando Montealegre.

The sector with the most mergers has been that of textiles and wearing apparel, totaling five mergers during October and November.

Montealegre states that he has authorized mergers of firms after determining that they have a sufficient number of competitors in the market for the goods they produce.

He agrees that he did approve one merger that reduced domestic competition enormously, but says that this was attenuated by the fact that "sufficient foreign sources exist producing the same products of good quality and at quite competitive prices."

He pointed out that not only in this case but in all cases, the register of importers is consulted, as is also the level of sales, production, and domestic competition, and the firms' clientele. "Everything is examined, before and after the operation," he says.

He explained that a merger can be approved in one of two forms: by creation, or by absorption. In the first of these, the two firms dissolve in order to create a new one. In the second, one of the two disappears so as to become part of the other, which continues operating.

Another form of merger occurs when one firm decides to cede part of its assets to another in order to strengthen it.

The 19 mergers consisted of: five in textiles and wearing apparel, with assets totaling 58.5 billion pesos; four in electric appliances, with 12.26 billion pesos in assets; two in plastics production, with 10.725 billion pesos in assets; two in the graphics industries sector, with 9 billion pesos in assets; two in systems and telecommunications, with 7 billion pesos in assets; and four in the commercial sector, with 5.408 billion pesos in assets.

• Armed Forces Chief on Counterinsurgency Plans

93SM0110A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p 15A

[Article by Nelson Freddy Padilla C.: "God Willing, and If We Can"]

[Text] *The Armed Forces say they have been strengthened and are reporting results against the CNG [National Guerrilla Coordination Group]. In 1993, there will be two new battalions, 17 counterinsurgency companies, and new Military Police units. There will also be a permanent investigating judge for each combat-operations unit. 5 billion pesos for civic-military action and alert on the border with Venezuela.*

Barrancabermeja and Cucuta—"If Marulanda's and Perez's heads do not roll, ours will," one of them commented.

They were all there. Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez, new commander of the Armed Forces; Harold Bedoya Pizarro and Luis Humberto Correa Castaneda, commanders of the Army's 2d and 1st Divisions; Manuel Jose Bonnet Locarno and Carlos Julio Gil Colorado, chiefs of the Armed Forces operations and intelligence staffs; and Ricardo Cifuentes Ordonez and Fernando Tapias Stahelin, commanders of the 5th Brigade and 2d Mobile Brigade. While they analyzed the law and order situation in the northeast sector of the country, Manuel Jose Guzman Rodriguez, new commander of the Army was visiting Arauca, which has been isolated for the past several days by subversive terrorism.

No sooner was the Armed Forces' new top leadership designated by President Gaviria, no sooner was the internal shakeup decreed with the intent of facilitating their work, and no sooner were their rest and recreation leaves cut short, than the new top brass knew the challenge they must face.

It was Saturday 28 November and the Armed Forces' new commander's first departure from his desk to visit his troops. During his visit to the troops of Barrancabermeja's New Granada Battalion, Gil Bermudez shook hands with each and every one of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men and asked them to help him accomplish his mission.

Later, the military group met with representatives of the national government and with businessmen, to hear their views of the situation with respect to law and order, and to request their loyalty in the war against the armed insurgents. The community spokesmen unhesitatingly offered them their support and pointed out, for example, that the port authority, just a few days ago, had imposed fines totaling 90 million pesos on the shipping companies that had let themselves be intimidated by the guerrillas.

"The professional military man's greatest pleasure is to be in contact with his troops, but I have also found solidarity with the civil population. It is exhibiting a support that has never before been as determined and as generous," said Gil Bermudez at the conclusion of the meeting.

1993: A War Year

Gil Bermudez asserted that he will take every opportunity to make more contact of this kind in his quest for greater support for the Armed Forces' 1993 plans.

"For this coming year, we have different plans. The idea is more or less the following: solve many shortcomings and limitations in the human and operational spheres. To this end, the president has ordered that funds be placed at our disposal for the purpose of developing the capabilities of the Armed Forces to the utmost.

"The existing units are to be strengthened, both in the air and on the ground. Recently, we activated the 16th Brigade, nine counterinsurgency battalions and five counterinsurgency companies, and we have already worked out a new development plan. This plan includes two counterinsurgency and infantry battalions, and 17 additional companies. Military Police units will be activated in Medellin and Bucaramanga.

"The Judiciary Police function that has been vested in us enhances our capabilities of action, in that we can now participate in an investigative phase from which we can derive the necessary intelligence for our operations.

"We have been working on this aspect since 1990, and we have been preparing a considerable group of officers and noncommissioned officers since then, who will be brought into the operation to perform those functions. Furthermore, we already have in operation several additional courses, with the support of the Attorney General's Office and the Judiciary Police.

"As of now, we can count on the cooperation of every public prosecutor throughout the country, but plans call for the appointment, within the next few days, of a permanent investigating judge for each combat-operations unit of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. Initially, there will be some 25 investigating judges. They will live on military bases.

"Another front on which work is proceeding is the building of the cadres of the new military units. We believe that with the voluntary reserve personnel who wish to return to active duty we can satisfy our immediate needs. As soon as we announced our intent to call up a part of the Armed Forces reserves, quite a few presented themselves voluntarily. And at this time, we are actually in a position to make a good selection.

"The operational readiness of the mobile brigades, which thus far has been exceptional, will be further enhanced. The security plans of the energy and oil production networks have been reviewed in their entirety, and the conclusion has been reached that they need to be reinforced. Steps have been taken to this end that cannot properly be revealed."

To those plans outlined by General Gil Bermudez, a special civic-military action plan will be added, under which all the country's military units are to enter into closer contact with the citizenry and resolve some of the citizenry's most pressing needs. A budget of 5 billion pesos has already been set up for this purpose. By the end of 1993, every garrison will be expected to have accomplished at least one large-scale beneficial social project within its jurisdiction.

Studying the Enemy

As it recharges its own batteries, the new military command seeks, with the creation of 44 new intelligence networks, to update its information on the enemy on a day-to-day basis.

This effort has proven fruitful over the past several days. Documents and recordings in the possession of the Army and Armed Forces commands have revealed a new guerrilla strategy that is seeking to offset the government's most recent measures against crime.

The most important revelation concerns an ELN [Army of National Liberation] plan to "break the government's clampdown on publicity."

In an effort to counter the measures that prevent the media from broadcasting seditious actions, this outlaw group is planning to make video recordings of each guerrilla attack and incursion. The order to implement this plan is to be issued by Francisco Galan, at which point video cameramen are to be assigned to each subversive front. These cameramen will record criminal incursions and turn the tapes over to their commanders for release to international television chains. The new plan was discovered hours after a wiretap was placed on the ELN in the municipality of Salazar de las Palmas.

Another guerrilla strategy that has been detected is the creation of a so-called "loan group" whose function will be to "lend" the cost of the ransom to the families of kidnap victims whose assets the government has frozen, in the event the antikidnap bill is enacted.

Upon receipt of all this information, the new military commanders left for Cucuta, where they visited the Maza Mechanized Group, the unit that has delivered the best results over the past several months. There, they laid down a set of special measures putting the troops garrisoned at the border on permanent alert status pending the restoration of normal law and order to the immediate area.

"The brigands are constantly scheming and contriving ways to continue disrupting the national economy. But," the commander of the Armed Forces concluded, "to the full extent of our capability, and God willing, we will successfully complete the task we have now undertaken."

Paraguay

Colorado Party Internal Elections Viewed

PY0801223593 Asuncion LA OPINION in Spanish 8 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] A detailed report of events that took place over the New Year weekend reveals that the Government-Armed Forces-Colorado Party triumvirate has functioned perfectly to block [Colorado Party presidential pre-candidate Luis Maria] Argana's virtual victory in the Colorado Party internal elections. The ultimate military solution, the self-inflicted coup, did not take place because the "vote tally coup" was chosen instead.

Sunday, 27 December: According to an unofficial tally by the party electoral court, Argana has won the Colorado Party internal elections, and according to Radio Nanduti's "exit vote" polls, Argana obtained a clear victory by 49 percent over the 41 percent obtained by [Colorado Party presidential pre-candidate Juan Carlos] Wasmosy.

Monday, 28 December: The Wasmosy-Seifart ticket fails to recognize the victory of the Argana-Ybanez ticket, asks for the annulment of the elections, and adds that it will await the resolution of the party electoral court. Moreover, Wasmosy proclaims himself the winner, notwithstanding his denunciation of a generalized fraud in the electoral dispute. The official and government-sponsored ticket begins a series of meetings which continue all the following day in an effort to find a way out of the crisis. The order not to relinquish command of the party and of the nation to Luis Maria Argana is issued.

Tuesday, 29 December: Intensive contacts continue between Government Palace, top military commanders, and the Colorado Party board to find a quick solution to the "impasse" which emerged in the internal elections and Argana's unofficial victory. The possibility of disrupting the constitutional system, the declaration of a state of emergency, and ultimately, a self-inflicted coup and a return to the transition period are considered. The possibility of a negotiated solution with Argana is also considered.

Wednesday, 30 December: The Navy, headed by [Rear Admiral] Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, hints that it would not join a military solution and would not endorse a self-inflicted coup by General Andres Rodriguez, who is undecided whether to take that step, in principle scheduled for 1-2 February.

Thursday, 31 December: The U.S. Embassy becomes aware of the entire plan for a self-inflicted coup and reacts by clearly explaining to politicians and military officers that it does not support an anti-constitutional solution to the political crisis prompted by the party internal elections. Some deputies are sounded out by the Presidency of the Republic on the possibility of using the current Constitution to declare a state of emergency.

Friday, 1 January: New Year's day passes without military and political leaders making the decisive step of a self-inflicted coup. Gen. Rodriguez makes no decision because the party electoral court is expected, after all, to make a decision on Argana's candidacy.

Saturday, 2 January: Morning newspapers refer to a possible coup. With the mediation of Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Sebastian Laboa, Argana announces that he will not negotiate with Rodriguez, and that his victory in the internal elections must be recognized without any political conditions. The coup depends only on a decision by Rodriguez. The U.S. Embassy publishes a communique warning of the consequences for the country, and for Rodriguez, of a step of that nature. The situation is very serious and the president goes to the 1st Army Corps (Cavalry Regiment). Late in the afternoon, Rodriguez leaves in sports clothes and talks to the press, denying rumors of an imminent coup. Policemen cordon

off the Colorado Party Executive Board building and allow no one to enter the building, although some outstanding leaders remain all night inside the party building. Calm returns among the population.

Sunday, 3 January: Fears of a coup disappear. The alternate plan to convince the party electoral court to declare the Wasmosy- Seifart ticket winner is put into effect, claiming irregularities in the internal elections. The idea of a "vote-tally coup" is chosen by the government board.

Monday, 4 January: It is learned that the party electoral court will show a Wasmosy win by at least 10,000 votes. The 1st Army Corps (Cavalry Regiment) denies that it is manipulating the electoral documents or lists within its installations. The police cordoning off the Colorado Party Board building are withdrawn.

Tuesday, 5 January: The party electoral court continues its sluggish task and announces that by Friday, 8 January, a resolution will be released, proclaiming the winning ticket, which will be that of Wasmosy-Seifart.

Wednesday, 6 January: The Argana-Ybanez movement release a communique stating that it will not accept any manipulation of the party electoral court and disqualifies the activities of Elizardo Bobadilla, chairman of the electoral court. The Argana-Ybanez ticket also announces that Wasmosy's victory is being cooked with a lead of "12,620 votes."

Party Electoral Board Disintegrates

PY0901124693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 5

[Excerpt] More members [number not specified], who had been asked to disqualify themselves, of the Colorado Party's Independent Electoral Board resigned on 8 January. Thus, the party crisis has become much more serious and the outcome of the internal elections' official results now will be drawn out. Board President Roque Elizardo Bobadilla Cataldi has submitted his unrevokable resignation from the post. Thus, the organization has disintegrated, and a party convention will have to be called in order to name new members to the board in order to try to seek a solution to the conflict.

With the resignation of the president of the Colorado Party's Independent Electoral Board, the internal crisis has taken a turn for the worse. This has been an ongoing crisis within the Colorado Party, and it began to deteriorate after the 27 December internal elections to elect members to contest national posts in the 9 May general elections.

Now there is an overwhelming series of resignations due to the series of disqualifications demanded by the two competing presidential hopefuls, and this has practically disintegrated the Colorado Party board.

According to some interpretations of the party statute, it is now up to the party's Executive Board to inform itself about the current situation and then call a convention, which named the former members, in order to restructure the party organization and thus seek a solution to the mess the party has fallen into. [passage omitted]

Daily Analyzes Planned 'Self-Inflicted Coup'

PY0801222893 Asuncion LA OPINION in Spanish 8 Jan 93 p 2,3

[Text] Everything was ready for the self-inflicted coup on 2 January. Attending a crucial meeting at the Cavalry [1st Army Corps] were, among others, General Lino Oviedo, General Anibal Regis Romero, and General Andres Rodriguez himself. After the crucial meeting Rodriguez went to play tennis and then met with reporters at the 1st Army Corps' entrance—still wearing his sports clothes—to deny the much announced coup.

The rumor did not go beyond a scare, and during the afternoon of 2 January President Rodriguez was suggesting that people should go out and have fun, "sing, dance, and fall in love over the weekend," in the style of Victor Benitez [popular radio anchorman].

At the time Gen. Rodriguez was asking for calm and denying the rumors circulating the country, a police detachment was taking up positions at the entrance of the Colorado Party building preventing anyone from entering the premises. Despite Rodriguez' denial, something was happening in important government circles as a result of the political crisis involving the country because of the Colorado Party's unresolved internal conflict. Without any direct military coup there was, however, an alternative plan to block [Colorado Party presidential pre-candidate Luis Maria] Argana's path to the presidency.

The fact is that Argana's victory on 27 December was not acceptable in military circles, at least by some Armed Forces' branches, and this rejection was unrelentingly heading toward the much publicized self-inflicted coup headed by Gen. Andres Rodriguez.

According to reliable sources, the U.S. Embassy knew about the operation and was compelled to do something to prevent the military intervention, a move that was accomplished just in time. When the U.S. warning was made public—on the afternoon of 2 January—no one doubted that those who were conspiring against democracy had lost. Rodriguez did the rest.

He obviously considered the possible consequences of a coup. First, his government would be marked as a dictatorship. Second, it would stop receiving Washington's vital support. Rodriguez would also have lost his international legal status, a priority for any government today, if he took over as a dictator.

The U.S. Embassy position was taken as implicit support for Argana's victory in the Colorado Party primaries. If

the electoral court now gives the final victory to [Colorado Party presidential pre-candidate] Juan Carlos Wasmosy—reversing the initial result—it is understood, however, that the embassy will accept it because Uncle Sam's diplomatic representation is only interested in a political solution to the political crisis with no direct military intervention

The "strong reaction of the United States and the international community" against any interruption in the democratic order in Paraguay, as the embassy communique points out, implies a sudden obstacle for those preparing the coup, something they did not contemplate during their preparations.

In order to have full military support, the coup attempt had to be headed by Rodriguez because there were doubts that other Army and Navy units would enthusiastically join the movement had it been proposed by the Cavalry alone.

Without Rodriguez' needed approval, and with the uncertain support of powerful commanders such as Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, the group of conspirators must have realized that their plans could not prosper.

After all, the coup was meant to be a move led and justified from the Government Palace without any movement of troops if the majority of large unit commanders supported it. If the movement had not received massive support, the troops would have been mobilized.

But what would have happened if one Armed Forces branch did not obey the commander in chief's orders or if the commanders disagreed among themselves due to the present conflictive political climate? The most probable result, if it came to a military solution with commanders going their own way, would have been civil war or a military-civil war.

General Oviedo Denies Rumors of Coup

PY1001015693 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2355 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] General Lino Cesar Oviedo, commander of the I Army Corps, has said that there is not the remotest possibility of a coup d'etat taking place in Paraguay. Gen. Oviedo said that members of the Armed Forces are the pillars of democracy, and are those most interested in consolidating the democratic process.

During the opening ceremony for the term of compulsory military service at the CIMEFOR [Military Reserves Training Center] in the RC4 [4th Cavalry Regiment] garrison, Gen. Oviedo rejected the coup rumors which have in the past few days been circulating in the country.

[Begin Oviedo recording] You have already heard this many times. I do not want to speak on this subject, as I have repeatedly said that the members of this new Armed Forces, of this new mentality that began on 3 February 1989, are the pillars of this new democracy.

Those who are inventing rumors are the ones who aim to create an unstable atmosphere in our country. They want to create a state of uncertainty and insecurity, because they do not share or agree with the freedom and total democracy in which we are living in Paraguay. They want to accuse us—we, who have brought democracy about—of being the bad guys in the movie. Those who were the bad guys and opposed democracy in the past are now appearing as saints, and they want to make it appear as if we did not contribute to this democracy. But lies are soon unmasked. Truth and competence always triumph. Excuse me, but this is all I wanted to say on this subject.

Anyone who would want to carry out a coup is not in his right mind—and should probably get to a psychiatric hospital to restore his senses—as we will not negotiate nor exchange for any amount of money in the world this great honor, this privilege, this merit in the Armed Forces of having brought democracy to the Paraguayan people. [end recording]

Supreme Court Suspends Airline Privatization

PY0801132293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] The Supreme Court has driven a nail into the coffin of the troublesome privatization program launched by the Paraguayan Government by suspending the privatization of Paraguayan Airlines (LAP) at the request of the deficit-ridden airline's trade union (Sitralap) [union of LAP workers]. This information was disclosed yesterday by judicial sources.

The Supreme Court ruling also prohibits the privatization of Apal [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration] and the three other state-owned enterprises listed by law among the ones to be privatized.

Sitralap had submitted a petition questioning the constitutionality of LAP's privatization, basing its claim on Article 111 of the new Constitution approved in June 1992, which establishes that employees of state-owned enterprises should be given preference in stock option plans.

If the court rules in its favor, the privatization of state-owned enterprises would be possible only if Congress approves a new law to replace the Privatizations Law of 30 December 1991.

Some businessmen complained yesterday that if this is the case, this new law would have to be discussed after the installation of the new Congress to be elected on 9 May and the inauguration of the new president on 15 August.

The Supreme Court members—Chief Justice Jose Alberto Correa and Justices Jeronimo Irala, Albino Garcete, Francisco Pussineri, and Carlos Victor Kohn—

decided to uphold the petition submitted by attorney Basilio Moran on behalf of Sitralap "until the constitutionality issue is decided."

The ruling is based on Article 553 of the Civil Procedure Code, which vests the Supreme Court with the power of suspending a law whenever its compliance "might bring about irreparable damage to the petitioners (workers)."

The Privatizations Law, which has been in effect for a year, provides that workers may buy up to 20 percent of the stock of the company where they work.

Notwithstanding this, the new Constitution stipulates that "whenever the government decides to privatize a state-owned enterprise, or allows the private sector to hold shares in these companies, employees and sectors directly involved with the said company should have preferential stock options."

Upon learning of the ruling, Information and Culture Director Guillermo Yaluff stated that the ruling is a hindrance for the privatization program and that it interferes with the administration's objectives, especially with those of the president, "who is particularly interested in promoting the privatization of deficit-ridden state-owned companies."

Jurisdiction of Human Rights Court Established

PY0901172993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 9

[Excerpt] In view of the recent discovery of the Stroessner police's secret archives, "which were hidden for a long time and which indicate the perpetration of horrid deeds that are particularly offensive to human dignity," the government yesterday established that the Inter-American Human Rights Court has jurisdiction nationwide to interpret and implement the Human Rights Convention of the Americas, or San Jose de Costa Rica Pact, but without being detrimental to the jurisdiction of national organizations.

President Andres Rodriguez yesterday signed Decree No. 16078, which accepts the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court for the cognizance and trial of human rights violations in Paraguay. This decision was adopted in view of Law No. 1/89, which approved and ratified the Human Rights Convention of the Americas, or San Jose de Costa Rica Pact. Among other things, the preamble of the new government decree establishes that "one of the specific objectives announced in the proclamation issued on 3 February 1989 [date of the military coup that ousted the Stroessner dictatorship] was the enforcement of human rights. It was in compliance with this objective that Law No. 1/89 was approved."

Moreover, this law "does not specifically accept the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court to interpret and implement the guidelines established in the convention." In addition, this same law in Article 62, Clause 3, establishes that "the court has jurisdiction...whenever the governments in question... recognize its jurisdiction...through a special declaration," which is this decree's objective.

The government decree also establishes that the Paraguayan Government "has given sufficient evidence of its adherence to the principles guiding the Human Rights Convention of the Americas, particularly with the recent approval of the new Constitution, which amply honors such principles."

The decree signed yesterday concludes: "Notwithstanding, the discovery of archives, which were hidden for a long time and which indicate the perpetration in the past of horrid deeds that are particularly offensive to human dignity, demand the issuance of this formal declaration because, above everything else, this government is firmly committed to implementing the full enforcement of human rights and to punishing human rights violations, for which purpose the recognition of this international organization's jurisdiction constitutes valuable cooperation." [passage omitted]

Laino Proposes Military-Civilian Dialogue

PY0901225693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Domingo Laino, presidential candidate of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] has issued a document proposing a pact between the political and military forces. In order to ensure democracy he wants to break up the trilogy made up of the National Republican Association-Colorado Party, the government, and the Armed Forces. Specifically, he proposed the resumption of a civilian-military dialogue in order to obligate the military to respect the political-electoral calendar.

"We must accept the idea that the Armed Forces really are a factor of power in Paraguay, and that they continue to play their political games. We also must accept that unless we seek a solution, a democratic solution to this game, the democratic process will be treading an uncertain path," Laino warned.

He added: "It is true that the military is actually affiliated with a political party, the ruling party, and that at times when decisions have to be made the Armed Forces, the state, and the government [as published] become a unified bloc."

To overcome this situation Laino proposes a pact between the political and military forces in order to ensure democracy. "We must admit that if we are not able to reach an agreement among Paraguayans, much less will we be able to do it through the intervention of foreigners," he said.

Laino suggests specifically the resumption of a civilian-military dialogue "to conduct the transition to democracy in our country."

To this extent he proposes drafting a common agenda confined to the central political issues, without hindering the possibility of resuming the dialogue on other similarly important issues later.

Electoral Agenda

In his opinion, the two groups must agree to respect the institutions, the juridical order, and above all the will of the people. They also must respect the periods established in the Constitution and the laws regarding the political and electoral calendar.

He also requested that members of the Armed Forces publicly promise not to become involved in political parties' activities; and that the Colorado Party publicly promise not to accept conscious or unconscious interference by military chiefs in their internal affairs in favor of their party or electoral interests.

Laino similarly calls for the opposition's public pledge to respect the institutionality of the Armed Forces and to promise not to adopt revengeful attitudes regarding political issues. He asks the military to publicly promise to respect the will of the people as expressed through their votes.

Finally, Laino says it is necessary to prove concretely to the people and to the international community that the Paraguayan military and civilians are willing to live in a democracy.

Attorney General Requests Stroessner Extradition

PY0901172693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jan 93 pp 2-3

[Excerpt] Attorney General Luis Escobar Faella yesterday asked Criminal Court Judge Nelson Mora Rodas to decree the indictment, arrest, and extradition of ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner Matiauda. Escobar Faella included this request in the case portfolio of the trial conducted against torturers who have been charged with the disappearance and death of brothers Rodolfo and Benjamin Ramirez Villalba. The attorney general adopted these measures against the former dictator on the basis of evidence and documents found in the secret archives of Stroessner's police that show Stroessner was aware of the Ramirez Villalba brothers' disappearances and deaths.

The attorney general's ruling requesting the indictment, arrest, and extradition of the ousted dictator states: "From the memoranda submitted by [former Investigative Police Department chief] Pastor Coronel to inform him of the activities of alleged subversives or dangerous people, it is established that General Alfredo Stroessner was aware of and directly involved in the decisions adopted at the Investigative Police Department."

Escobar Faella included this request in the case portfolio of the trial on the deaths of brothers Rodolfo and Benjamin Ramirez Villalba. With the dictator's "OK" [previous word in English], the Villalba brothers, who were Paraguayan Communist Youth leaders, were arrested and allegedly hanged with wires in November 1974 after being subjected to cruel tortures by Pastor Coronel and other hangmen. [passage omitted]

Son of Former Dictator Stroessner Dies

PY0901132293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Alfredo Stroessner Mora died yesterday at about 1015 at the Italian Hospital. He was 45. According to sources close to the family, Stroessner Mora suffered a heart attack and died instantly.

Numerous friends of the ousted dictator's late son went to the hospital to express their condolences to the few relatives of the Stroessner family who are in Paraguay. In a very discreet manner, some members of the former regime were also present at the Italian Hospital. [passage omitted]

Peru

Government Extends State of Emergency in Apurimac

PA0901163593 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1549 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (DPA)—The Peruvian Government extended for 60 days, beginning on 10 January, the state of emergency in Apurimac Department, southeast of Lima.

As a result of the measure, constitutional guarantees are suspended and the Armed Forces are authorized to take internal control.

The extension is based on the continuation of terrorist actions in the department.

Extradiction Request for Alan Garcia Authorized

PA1001175993 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1639 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Lima, 10 Jan (DPA)—The Justice Ministry has authorized an extradition request for former Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who sought asylum in Colombia and was indicted on charges of illegal enrichment against the state filed by Supreme Prosecuting Attorney Carlos Hermoza Moya.

This is stated in a supreme resolution published on 10 January in the official newspaper EL PERUANO. The resolution indicated that in keeping with Law 24710 and the extradition agreement between Colombia and Peru, the government of each country is entitled to make decisions on extradition requests.

It added that the Civil Court of the Supreme Court of Justice ruled on 5 January that the extradition request is admissible.

Fujimori Swears In Camet as Economy Minister

PA0901012393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Speculation is now a thing of the past. President Fujimori finally decided to appoint Jorge Camet, an engineer and minister of industry until a few hours ago, to replace outgoing Carlos Bolona as economy and finance minister.

As soon as he was appointed, Camet announced adjustments to the economic program, in which he will promote social programs. The government must now find replacements for the two ministries that are vacant: the industries ministry and the transportation and communications ministry.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori, in progress] ...before God, to loyally and faithfully carry out the post of minister of economy and finance to which you are appointed?

[Camet] Yes, I swear it.

[Fujimori] If so, may God reward you or else he and the fatherland will hold you accountable. [applause] [end recording]

It is the second time that Jorge Camet Dickman, 65, has taken the oath to occupy a ministry post. The first time was to occupy the industry minister post, from which he resigned to replace now former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona.

The ceremony was held in the golden room of the government palace, but was not attended by Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada, who is in Chile. Some ministers and ranking political and business personalities attended. Camet was sworn in as minister following three days of secrecy inside the government palace. The decision by President Alfredo Fujimori to appoint a civil engineer to head the Economy and Finance Ministry is a result of Camet's renowned business background. The names of the new industry and transportation and communications ministers will be announced in the coming days. The line of Carlos Bolona's economic program will be continued, but social sectors will be given more support.

[Begin recording] [Camet] The model will be maintained. We have advanced greatly. The year 1993 will be difficult, but will have a positive outcome. In 1994 we will reap what we have sowed. Don't forget that we are reforming, deeply rebuilding the country here.

[Unidentified reporter] Will there be an economic recovery?

[Camet] There will be a gradual economic reactivation. This is a process, we are not taking leaps. Reconstruction and reform are processes.

[Reporter] It has been said that to alleviate the social cost it will [words indistinct].

[Camet] One of the priorities of this program is social support, which has increased tremendously, as you know.

[Reporter] Will the current Deputy Finance and Economy Minister Alfredo Jalilie and Deputy Economy Minister Rosario Almenara remain in their posts?

[Camet] Yes.

[Reporter] Will you maintain the current [words indistinct].

[Camet] It is an autonomous organization. We will speak in detail about the economic aspect. [end recording]

Businessmen React to Appointment

PA0901162793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The appointment of Jorge Camet as new economy minister prompted various reactions among politicians and economists. Most of them applauded the decision and said international credit organizations will recognize in Camet a man who can help the nation move ahead.

[Begin recording] [Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress] I think the president made an excellent decision by appointing Camet as economy minister. Minister Camet is well known in international spheres because he has always been linked to international organizations. His appointment will be well received abroad. In Peru, the fact that he is closely linked to productive sectors and that he has very good relations will expedite the reactivation of the productive sector.

[Jose Antonio Aguirre, of the National Confederation of Private Business, Confiep] Camet is a well-known person who is versed on the country's situation. He can be an excellent manager who can seek advice from economists and monetary experts as necessary to negotiate abroad. In addition, Camet has already been abroad accompanying Minister Carlos Bolona, who did an excellent job.

Camet will easily continue the work initiated by Minister Bolona. He quickly will be recognized abroad as a serious and sober man. He was president of Confiep, the most important business organization in Peru, which will be highly recognized.

[Jorge Picasso, president of the Association of Banks] The country in general must be very pleased with Minister Camet's appointment because the president has chosen a person who is well-informed of the country's situation and reality. He is a man who knows how to run a business, a man who is practical, and who I am sure will be surrounded by the best technical advisers in order to make the necessary management changes the economic plan requires.

[Eduardo McBride, president of the Exporters Association] First of all, I am pleased with the selection of a

businessman for this difficult position, and second, I think this is a double challenge for the business sector and for Jorge Camet, whose measures we must support. On the other hand, it represents a challenge for the business sector, which is committed to this appointment. I think Jorge Camet is a person who will adequately respond to the task entrusted to him, particularly abroad, where we are facing a critical period. He must complete the negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank, and begin negotiations with commercial banks, which were already scheduled. In the foreign field, businessmen have been recommending greater flexibility in the economic plan, in order to encourage economic reactivation. [end recording]

Fujimori on Subversives, New Economy Minister

PA1001215793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] With the cooperation of repentant subversives, members of the Army destroyed a Shining Path camp in Aguaytia. In the operation, 15 terrorists were killed and large quantities of weapons were confiscated, according to an announcement made by President Alberto Fujimori. He also said Jorge Camet, the new economy minister, will continue the excellent job done by Carlos Bolona.

President Fujimori said the job done by Carlos Bolona, who was in charge of Economy and Finance Ministry in the last two years, was extraordinary.

President Fujimori visited a missile boat, accompanied by his four children. Shortly before speaking to the media, the president toured the boat, always listening to the remarks by the ship's commander.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] We already know who will replace Economy Minister Carlos Bolona, but when will you announce replacements for the industry and transportation ministers?

[Fujimori] As the president of the Council of Ministers has announced, this will be made known next week. In principle, economic policies will be guided within the well-known framework of fiscal balance. We will have to continue our austerity measures to definitely draw the country out of the crisis.

[Reporter] The country recently had to sign a letter with the IMF and should have cleared arrears with the World Bank. When will these operations take place, following Bolona's resignation?

[Fujimori] In talks I held with Mr. Michel Camdessus, I asked for the postponement of this entire operation to reform the letter of intent and the economic program for the country's benefit, especially regarding the short-term program. I hope Camet, after being briefed on all aspects of this economic program and the reinstatement process, can do it as soon as possible. Actually the negotiations have come along well, especially the negotiations with the IMF.

[Reporter] Who will draft the country's economic policy as of now, you or Minister Camet?

[Fujimori] The country's economic policy is the president's responsibility. For the sake of continuity in this economic policy, it cannot be handled differently by each minister. Each minister cannot be coming up with his own program.

[Reporter] What information do you have on the attack in Moyobamba?

[Fujimori] It was a surprise attack. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement has concentrated all its efforts on Moyobamba's police stations. Apparently the police officers stationed in that city were not prepared. They were caught by surprise, but there is encouraging news. Thanks to the information provided by a repentant Shining Path member, an important Shining Path camp has been discovered. A huge quantity of weapons has been confiscated and, according to initial reports, 15 Shining Path members have been killed in clashes. This is one more defeat, comparable to what the Army inflicted on Shining Path in Viscatan.

[Reporter] In the past few days, last week, congressmen have been discussing their salaries. Many agreed on the salary they had before 5 April. Many of them were from the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition. What comment do you have in this regard, bearing in mind it was one of the reasons behind the events of 5 April 1992?

[Fujimori] I have suggested—and I believe it has been the position of Change 90/New Majority—that salaries should of course be autonomously determined by the Democratic Constituent Congress. We must also listen to the suggestions made by the opposition. If they suggest 1,100 or 500 soles, I believe their opinions should be heard. [end recording]

Report on Foreign Minister Visit to Chile

PA0801162993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report by Raul Castillo in Santiago, Chile—recorded]

[Text] The Peruvian Foreign Minister's three-day visit to Chile commenced on 7 January and started with a question from the Chilean press on the resignation of former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona. Oscar de la Puente replied the former minister had been offered an important post abroad. A few minutes later, with his Chilean colleague Enrique Silva, the Peruvian foreign minister inaugurated the first diplomatic level work session at the Chilean Foreign Relations Ministry. The main subject discussed was the pending clauses in the 1929 Treaties that ended the hostilities of the Pacific

War. Both delegations were quiet on the progress made on the issue. One hour later, the foreign ministers reaffirmed the links of friendship between the nations when awards were exchanged at the Foreign Ministry. Enrique Silva bestowed on our minister the Grand Cross Order of Merit, while Oscar de la Puente bestowed the Order of the Sun on his colleague. The large Peruvian delegation was made up of the deputy ministers of economy; industry, tourism, commerce, and integration; interior; and transportation, as well as representatives of the Peruvian private sector, the National Culture Institute, the National Police, and the Privatization Committee.

To facilitate contacts with their Chilean counterparts, mixed commissions were organized to establish, in 60 days, agreements aimed at even greater rapprochement between the two nations. Subsequently, Chile and Peru, with Ecuador, will embark on the economic conquest of the Pacific Basin through the attraction of foreign investments. With this goal in mind, the diplomatic representatives met once again at the Foreign Ministry, while Peruvian and Chilean businessmen met at the [word indistinct] Development Corporation. The meeting was possibly the most important of this visit, as Oscar de la Puente had the opportunity to report on the new situation in Peru after the coups against terrorism and the reestablishment of [word indistinct] democracy with the installation of the Democratic Constituent Congress.

De La Puente Says Visit 'Satisfactory'

PA0901185093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente has concluded his visit to Chile with the signing of a bilateral agreement between the two countries. The agreement summarizes the accords adopted to solve the Lima Treaty's problems. Upon his return to our country he gave an important statement.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] The trip's results were satisfactory. We worked hard for two and a half days, and the Foreign Ministries of Chile and Peru strived to carry out an agenda which ended with the issuance of a joint declaration. The document summarizes all the agreements we have reached. The most important include the creation of a bilateral Peruvian-Chilean commission at the deputy minister level. Proposals will be issued within 60 days, and the foreign ministers will submit them to the presidents so we may definitely solve pending problems concerning the 1929 treaty between the two countries.

We have simultaneously established mechanisms for an exchange between businessmen in the two countries to encourage Chilean investments in Peru, create mixed enterprises, develop these enterprises at the world level, and strengthen bilateral relations between Peruvian and Chilean enterprises in the business and industrial sectors.

Likewise, we have foreseen the creation of mixed commissions for cooperation in air transportation, port mechanisms, border security, and cultural and education activities. The success of these efforts will definitely be guaranteed by the firm determination to define situations between the government and peoples of Peru and Chile so we may work together as we approach the 21st century.

[Unidentified reporter] Many were surprised by the appointment of Jorge Camet as economy minister because everyone expected the appointment of Manuel Estela or Mr. Raul Salazar. What can you tell us about this?

[De la Puente] Minister Camet has worked closely with Minister Carlos Bolona in everything concerning economic and financial mechanisms at both the national and international level. He and Minister Bolona established a close relationship from the very start and I have no doubts the presidential decision will prove correct because his appointment will result in a continuity of Minister Bolona's economic programs. The programs will not be modified; instead, they will be improved and strengthened to support the country's production, industrial, and business groups; and they will give preferential treatment to social groups that represent the millions of Peruvians who expect a prompt solution to their problems. [end recording]

De La Puente on Economy, Foreign Policy

PA1001140993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

["Saturday Focus" program with host Dennis Vargas Marin; Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; Ambassador Jorge Morelli Pando; Dr. Artirio Salazar Larrain, and Apoyo firm member Luis Jaime Cisneros]

[Excerpts] [Vargas] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen; 1993 opens very interesting and encouraging prospects for our country's foreign policy. In only five days this week very important events have taken place. Not only were we visited by the British deputy foreign minister [as heard]—a clear indication that the UK intends to become closer to Peru and begin relations that encourage our development, but we can also point to Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada's momentous visit to Chile to renew goodwill and especially the desire to develop, now more than ever, an authentic and definite integration between the two countries.

Not only does our country have this encouraging foreign policy, but a new cabinet member. We have a new economy minister. Jorge Camet from now on will be in charge of the destiny of Peru's economy as he replaces Carlos Bolona. This makes us want to examine closely every little aspect of our government's intentions.

We are interested in De la Puente Raygada's cabinet as well. What will happen after this shake-up? Who will be the new ministers for transportation and communications and industries? What is the course in 1993 for the De la Puente cabinet without Bolona? Can we speak of the economic plan without Bolona? The president of the Council of Ministers has much to tell us—not only to do with these domestic topics, but relations with the United States, given Bernard Aronson's recent statements, and border policies.

Ladies and gentlemen: We consider that our topic is very important for our fellow countrymen. That is why we have here today, and thank him very much for his generosity, Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. Dr. De la Puente, welcome to "Saturday Focus."

[De la Puente] Good morning, gentlemen. Thank you very much, Dennis, for the invitation, just a few hours after landing at Jorge Chavez Airport, and after experiencing some incredible incidents.

[Vargas] What was the incident, the one in the elevator? It is not only quite a story but a story that received much local and international media coverage.

[De la Puente] I said tongue-in-cheek that the Chilean Foreign Ministry was so intent on keeping me for a few more minutes that the elevator helped out by keeping me trapped for 16 minutes. By the way, I was very well accompanied. There were the Chilean and Peruvian ambassadors, security personnel, and aides decamp. There can be no argument that eight people take up more space and weigh more than five, and the elevator became overloaded.

[Vargas] I believe there were also other personalities stuck in the elevator?

[De la Puente] Yes, U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, a heavy set man with certain movement limitations, was there, too. It seemed like those 16 minutes would never end. Fortunately, Dennis Vargas Marin was with us, so he was able to catch an exclusive.

[Vargas] Yes, it was an exclusive interview inside the elevator.

[De la Puente] With a recorder, which will make an unforgettable story.

[Vargas] Many thanks, Mr. Foreign Minister. Now let's go from anecdotes to reality. How about if we start with domestic topics, Mr. Foreign Minister? Then we will move on to foreign affairs. We have a new economy minister. I want to start by asking you how will Mr. Camet guarantee continuity with Bolona's economic plan? Is this just a change of names? Mr. Camet does not have Bolona's international experience or his contacts, and this post demands different skills. How will this be done? Sometimes goodwill and a desire to serve the fatherland are not enough. What measures have been taken?

[De la Puente] The presence of a minister such as Jorge Camet, with his experience gained as a minister, is security not only for the continuation of the economic program but also for the country's liberalization, privatization, and reinstatement to the international financial community, which Carlos Bolona initiated so successfully. He began this task by putting our public finances and government spending in order and administering economic programs with absolute austerity. In doing this, Jorge Camet has not only been a witness but also a key player. It is not public knowledge, but the important tasks in a particular ministry are not handled by that minister alone. I have had several meetings with ministers in the production sector and social affairs ministers to analyze specific cases, and with specific groups of ministers whenever necessary.

Jorge Camet was appointed to the cabinet at Bolona's request. We have worked with him very closely. No decisions are made in an isolated manner; they are always discussed. Jorge was always consulted in the decision making process of the economic program to the point that in recent weeks, prior to the president's decision to make cabinet changes, ministers have been holding meetings at the Foreign Ministry and in Bolona's and Camet's offices. In other words, there is continuity in this process.

There is an aspect that should be pointed out. I am referring to the continuing contact Jorge Camet has had with the social groups that require preferential and better treatment than they have received from previous governments.

[Vargas] Mr. Minister, within this context, may we understand that perhaps the treatment of the social emergency issue may improve with Jorge Camet? Perhaps the social issue, which we have called the weak point of the economic program, may be improved with Camet's arrival? Is this what you meant?

[De la Puente] As you know, the adjustment policy must be adapted and tailored to a series of measures that cannot be changed and must follow a specific order. One cannot serve social sectors without first putting the economy in order, generating resources, and increasing collection to improve efficiency.

In this case, the economic program devised by Bolona has been very austere and very demanding. This puts limitations on the expectations of different sectors, particularly two important sectors. I am referring to the business industrial production sector, which demanded reactivation through the implementation of government measures, and the depressed social sector, those who live in poor suburban areas without hope. This social sector was even leaning toward informal economic activities to be able to survive.

What has taken place in Peru is a clear demonstration of what Peruvians can achieve when they have initiative. There are practically no beggars in the country. There is an extraordinary initiative to generate resources through

informal economic activities. But this process is often misread when the economic program is carried out in a firm and prudent but professional and organized manner.

In this case, when assessing the cabinet reorganization, it was considered that the economic problems would not be solved by any changes made on 30 December 1992, or on 28 July 1995. The solution is a national economic reactivation program. As Chilean President Patricio Aylwin has clearly stated, growth must be accompanied by fairness. In this particular case, fairness is achieved by understanding that the foreign debt, [words indistinct] establishing a commitment is not as important. Since President Fujimori took over the country more than two years ago, the government has respectfully abided by its international obligations.

But there is also a large social debt, which we cannot disavow. This is a priority and basic aspect of the solution, without altering the economic program, which has been successful. We cannot deny that inflation is down. We have brought spending under control; we have recovered the confidence of and our credibility with international institutions. This has resulted in our receiving cooperation and financial assistance.

We cannot say all of a sudden, gentlemen, since we have already achieved a partial objective: Let us now take the populist path. This is unacceptable, and we will not do it. [passage omitted]

[Salazar] Mr. De la Puente, good morning.

[De la Puente] Good morning, Arturo.

[Salazar] I have heard you say that the problem is growth with fairness. Nonetheless, there would not be any fairness if there were not any growth. Right?

[De la Puente] That is correct.

[Salazar] Then, what measures will be adopted to promote a bit of growth in an economy that has decreased by a little over three points?

[De la Puente] The key to all of this is a level of agreement between the productive forces and the government, and a renegotiation of the conditions of the letter of intent with the IMF for the next three years of the economic program.

Perhaps we will find the key if we read President Fujimori's letter to [IMF Managing Director] Michel Camdessus. The president did not tell him: We do not agree or we want to ignore everything that has been done so far. The spirit of the letter is: Bear in mind that all we have done is to save this country. Now we are going to start saving it from within. In this case, I think that renegotiating the conditions of the program is one of the important measures that Jorge Camet will have to begin doing immediately.

The way the program was set up, it did not allow any possibility for improving the productive and social areas. Some indicators even projected a balance with a requirement for four points over production, something that cannot be managed. The consequences of this disorder had no solution. It appeared to go against the process of what the president considers the basic point of his government program: full peace in the country. This pacification has been achieved successfully. We have achieved success over the terrorist hordes and Shining Path barbarism.

We must also admit that no peace can be attained fully unless there is social tranquillity and orderly production that will prevent the collapse of business—which is a threat to many—and of massive unemployment. Our percentage of underemployed is one of the highest in the world. We could not think that after three years this issue could be managed technically. But the social consequences could be very bad.

[Salazar] You said it is necessary to save this country from within. But from a business point of view and if I am not wrong, to do so means revising the tax laws, especially the tax code, about which the business sector has been very vocal.

[De la Puente] Camet's stance concerning the business sector, I believe, is a coincidence the president did take into account. The president is very observant and has a great ability to interpret requests from various sectors at any given time. Recognizing Jorge as the former president of the National Confederation of Private Business and an entrepreneur who has experience in all areas of production, allows him to reach an adequate level of understanding. Reactivation will be a step by step process, as he said in his first official statements. The idea is not to wipe out all the norms issued during the last few months and say: As we have a new minister, we will begin a new policy.

There definitely is a degree of understanding inasmuch as we do not disregard the possibility of revising the tax policy, the tax code, and such. We will not easily fall into a policy of subsidies and start going backward, as was thought when there was allegedly going to be radical changes in the government economic plan. I believe we have several factors to consider. If our foreign debt payment timetable and amounts could be modified; if the cooperation system we have with the Paris Club, the multilateral organizations, and the banks were to grant us an extension on our short-term payment dates, so we can have a little more cash flow to work with; and if there is a restructuring of government spending toward production, I believe we could find a way to work on both these fronts.

[Salazar] Could we also consider redistributing government money toward the social and the productive sectors?

[De la Puente] Logically. We are introducing a management system in the social areas through the National

Fund for Social Development and Compensation [Foncodes]. These funds, however, have been dispersed, so to speak, and management did not focus its efforts on priority plans such as investments or job creation plans. Instead, funds have been spent on anxiously awaited solutions to specific problems in certain sectors.

Now we have Jorge heading the financial process at Foncodes and the use of several additional million [currency not specified] which might end up abroad unless we can find an adequate renegotiation program. I believe this will give us some extra elbow room, but not overnight, mind you. Jorge was very clear in his first statements when he said yes to reactivation, but step by step.

[Salazar] When I interviewed President Fujimori with Dennis Vargas, I insisted on knowing what was going to happen with the national budget. First I wanted to know if it is well structured, which I doubt, and second if it will be viable or not, after it gets through the close examination it will undergo at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD].

[De la Puente] The mechanism set up for a coordinated evaluation process with the CCD allows us to make certain changes that should be positive. I believe the CCD members are very well oriented, not toward a negative type of opposition, which would make it impossible for the government to work, but toward helping to improve those things that might be considered as low priorities or to modify those vulnerable or objectionable issues. I do not know the names of the CCD economic commission members. I believe Victor Joy Way is one and another is... [pauses] I cannot recall his name but I understand the evaluation mechanism will lead to a commission of some sort that will have to reach agreements with the Executive Branch economic team. We may think of such an arrangement not as a sign of falling into a populist attitude, but as an effort to see how we can better use our resources.

[Vargas] A question from Luis Jaime Cisneros.

[Cisneros] I would like to ask you why Minister Bolona resigned. You said just moments ago that it was already known that the cabinet... [pauses] that the whole cabinet was to resign at the end of December. Why did it take so long to appoint a successor? Why did he resign in the first place? There has been no clear explanation.

[De la Puente] Let me tell you this, sir. When the CCD was installed on 30 December, instead of placing our posts at the president's disposal, as we traditionally do, the ministers presented our resignations. This is the first time I know of that the ministers have resigned instead of placing their posts at the president's disposal, giving him complete liberty to act. This was done at the request of the president of the Council of Ministers, because we were beginning a totally new phase of government. This was no longer the 5 April to 30 December phase, during which the Executive Branch had absorbed the legislative duties and power was concentrated around this situation. As of 30 December there was a new governing mechanism, and it was logical for the president to wish to assess the new situation and reformulate his government accordingly.

Given the affection and regard that we, and especially I have for Carlos Bolona, I would rather not get into a discussion, but I do think he was a little hasty. Bologna put his resignation in writing, as we all did. On 30 December, after talking with the president, I told him and Alfredo Ross about the president's decision to restructure the economic and transportation teams. This was the president's decision. It was not meant as a form of censorship, nor did it question the efforts and progress made in these two ministries. It responded to a need to revitalize them, but keeping the two ministers, who were to leave their posts. They were both offered important posts at multilateral organizations, because the idea was for them to continue cooperating and collaborating on an international basis. The surprise came when the minister presented another letter of resignation on 4 January, in which he stated his resignation was irrevocable and went on to question the president and the government.

[Vargas] You consider that to be a hasty decision?

[De la Puente] I think it was quite a hasty decision, because he could have made various recommendations, which would then have served as a basis for the new minister to improve, or at least receive a general idea, based on his expertise and personal qualities. To present a second letter of resignation was a little hasty. I am not talking about disloyalty, because there is no place for that feeling in the mind of Carlos or any of us, as we have served the nation and made a permanent sacrifice, which comes with being part of the government machine. What has traversed the globe, however, is not the president's decision to change his cabinet, but the minister's resignation. The consequence of this, which is why I speak of hastiness, is that international indicators immediately reacted negatively.

The stock market immediately took a dive. The exchange rate immediately increased. We even had speculation, which some took advantage of, caused by a resignation that could have signified an objection was being raised regarding the government and that a structural change was being made in the economic program. Those who have been abroad watched this with enormous concern, because many Chilean investors who were ready to come to Peru postponed their decisions, anticipating changes in the economic policy. Even U.S. Secretary of State, rather Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, called to voice the U.S. Government's concern regarding the objection that was raised, which could have meant a division or a cabinet crisis in the Peruvian Government.

[Cisneros] Has the cabinet reshuffle you mentioned been completed with the announced changes? According to

rumors circulating insistently for several weeks, you are one of the ministers who will be leaving the cabinet. Is this going to be your last interview as foreign minister?

[De la Puente] I do not know if I am able to predict the future, but I would like to tell you, as I tell the whole country, the president called us—and I would not say from nowhere—to render a service to our fatherland. Since the time we were entrusted with this difficult yet beautiful task of working for the country, to rebuild and upgrade it and to eradicate rampant corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency, we moved our clocks to another time. We turned off the clocks of our lives, privacy, our own hopes, and turned on a clock called Peru. We are on permanent, 24-hour service.

If, as you say, this is my last interview, and I do not know where the rumors come from, all I can say is that I and all the ministers are totally devoted to serving our country, whether in a professional or personal capacity. [passage omitted]

In analyzing our performance at the Foreign Ministry, the president and I noticed that it was in urgent need of structural adjustments to meet its new international demands. You mentioned this, and I have corroborated it and sensed it. We had fallen behind in the work to modernize the diplomatic service. The individual, the official, the efficient public servant, has no part in this, as it involves the system. That is why the current structure, created in the latest measures, has stressed the establishment of a deputy minister's office for international economy. This office is not going to be at odds with the Economy, Industries, or Presidency Ministries. Instead, it serves to harmonize efforts to improve the results of Peru's international acts in the field of cooperation, international promotion, attracting investments, integration, and everything related to selling a positive image of our country.

Although some distinguished professionals of the diplomatic service have an academic and personal background in this field, that is not as important as the urgent need to change and adapt. That is why we decided to put under the deputy minister's office technical divisions for cooperation, attracting investments, international promotion, and integration, which are headed by experts on international economic affairs. These experts should be hired after a public process to assess their abilities. The backgrounds they bring to the job will be furthered by the training they receive at the diplomatic academy. [passage omitted]

[Vargas] We feel the topic Ambassador Morelli Pando brought up is very important because we are talking about the crux of our foreign policy. The change in this policy has begun to be seen. I am telling you quite frankly that the diplomatic work performed during your visit to Chile has shown the change. The efficiency seen in all sorts of aspects makes one hopeful for diplomatic work. This work must be aggressive now that the countries of the world have begun to group around economic or specialized blocs. Now that the Cold War is over, we necessarily must live interconnected and interrelated. In this respect, Mr. Ambassador, you touched on a significant topic.

President Alberto Fujimori visited Southeast Asia. He went on an investigative and reconnaissance visit. We saw—I took part in that visit—truly outstanding examples of efficiency and work in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Japan. The president said Peru was going to look toward the Pacific Basin. I am now asking: How is that look toward the Pacific Basin going? You spoke of Malaysia. Do you mean we are going to train specialized diplomats to conquer the Pacific Basin or draw close to the Pacific Basin? Are we trained to make that connection?

[De la Puente] I would say we are not yet trained. I would say we are involved in a training program to achieve a positive result. In addition to the traditional embassies in Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing, we have opened different offices and missions in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and so forth. This entails a presence. That presence does not just mean opening an office, having a representative, and establishing a mechanism for relations between our representatives and the different foreign ministries in each of these countries abroad.

Efficiency and competence require that we strengthen each of these areas but not to enter a race. Just as I was telling the Chilean president, we do not want to enter a race saying: I am more able than you to take over the market you have entered. I think we must view things with total clarity, with a great deal of strength and steadfastness. If we, by ourselves, are not capable of achieving efficient results in the missions we are planning, let us unite. Let us unite. We are not regarded as a country but as a region or a subregion. For that reason, we must establish a mechanism for associating, participating, sharing the risk, and handling the work effectively to attain benefits that are redistributive, shared, and collective, which in turn will enable us to make the appropriate gains.

That is why if countries like Chile, Argentina, Brazil, or in this case Mexico, have very broad experience in developing international markets but lack a certain product or a certain capacity to produce a certain product, we should work together as a bloc and go as a region to achieve results. The topic of the Pacific Basin in the years ahead will force us to project ahead our entire economic, political, and economic services, to have an idea of the future. We are not ignoring the top importance of our region and our permanent presence as a partner of the EC and in the community of nations. That is why the shift Ambassador Morelli mentioned earlier has not been made.

It is a reorganization to strengthen the service and make it more efficient. We must realize each mission has its own budget. Each mission represents an investment or expense versus the benefit of its results. If we invest $1

million for naught in a mission we must come to the conclusion we are either failing to render the appropriate service, we do not have qualified personnel, or—and I fully agree with what the ambassador said about this—the appropriate policy outlined for that mission has not been the most timely or appropriate to allow it to work efficiently.

Sometimes a consulate is not the most appropriate mechanism to strengthen trade activities. A technical trade official certainly is. The consulate may provide the necessary administrative services our fellow citizens need, but a consul, who is not a specialized diplomatic official most of the time and who is often an honorary official because we do not have someone to represent us, cannot have the same interest as a professional specialist in a market economy or a successful businessman. They will be better prepared to handle this type of situation, given their ability—meaning efficiency versus nonproductivity.

That is why the president said we certainly have the necessary number of professionals—meaning our human resources, our think tank—but most of them are abroad. I do not want anyone to think I mean we must bring experts from abroad so they may work for the country. We must use Peruvian experts living abroad so they may truly become our ambassadors and allow us to establish a better international position. We must learn how to use our own human resources. We do have valuable resources in the diplomatic corps but most of the time they are misused. Now is the time to use them.

[Vargas] I would like to ask several questions ping-pong style, meaning quick questions and quick answers, before Arturo and Luis begin the last segment.

[De la Puente] That expression, ping pong, reminds me of our good friend, Mr. Enrique Chirinos. [laughter]

[Vargas] Yes, I was thinking about him; ping-pong style questions. The topic is the United States. Mr. Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, has mentioned several things we must bear in mind. First, the human rights issue. He is concerned about the human rights situation in Peru. I would like to ask you: How will Peru answer that? Then there is the issue of stability and the economic program's implementation. I do not know if Jorge Camet's appointment will guarantee the stability that has caused so much concern in the United States. The last issue, the possibility of maintaining coherent relations with the United States. What is the current outlook?

[De la Puente] Referring to the human rights policy, I have already mentioned the Peruvian Embassy in Washington and all our embassies abroad will undergo a reorganization concerning the mechanisms to contact each country's congress and parliament. Much has been said about Peru, which is called the world champion of missing persons and unresolved cases. This has occurred simply because there has been no rapprochement policy to settle all these issues.

I am sure over 90 percent of the 4,300 people reported missing are freely walking around Lima with another set of identification papers and forged electoral cards, or they are part of the terrorist organizations. They are reported missing because the diplomatic corps does not have a team of lawyers or career diplomats who are provided with a master list of everyone who has been arrested. This is one of the basic things we must have in Peru. Peru does not have such a master list.

[Vargas] That is right.

[De la Puente] A man can be arrested in Puno and transferred to Lima, and he will be reported missing.

[Vargas] Then we must get a master list.

[De la Puente] We are already working on it. We have a Spanish cooperation program for more than 20 million [currency not specified]. U.S. AID has already facilitated the flow of resources to the Prosecutor's Office. The Supreme Court of Justice now has an automation program. The Foreign, Justice, and Interior Ministries will have a master list of arrested people this year. That way they will know Yavirí Prison has so many and Miraflores municipality has so many, and the Foreign Ministry will thus be able to come up with the information.

That does not mean the human rights problem will be solved. It is how we will improve Peru's image abroad, thus countering the distorted image of Peru that has been depicted for many years by nongovernment organizations and human rights defense commissions, which are always undermining our country's image to discredit Peru. The goal is to exert a joint effort and provide truthful information so the country's image is not distorted.

Our working team in the United States now has capable people. We must wait until the new Democratic administration is installed. Then we will carry out an efficient campaign in Washington, Costa Rica, and at the Inter-American Human Rights Court. We will later prepare plans to do the same in Europe through the United Nations in Geneva.

[Vargas] Very well.

[De la Puente] Referring to economic stability, which has also caused concern in the U.S. Government, we have already discussed the issue openly. There will be no changes in our economic plans and no changes in policy. We have a stabilization process in the program, and we will strengthen areas that had not initially been taken into consideration.

Second, relations with the United States cannot be more active, considering we sent a prestigious ambassador; namely, Ricardo Luna. He was born and has lived in the United States. He knows the U.S. Administration very well. He is a personal friend of the highest officials in the U.S. Administration. We are providing our embassy in Washington with the most efficient and qualified staff to have an excellent diplomatic representation.

[Vargas] Even though the topic is not worth further comment, I would like to ask a man as cautious as you are to give us an explanation—as you are inclined to do when necessary—regarding Ecuador. We read remarks by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen, which I think deserve to be clarified. He reportedly said President Alberto Fujimori admitted a territorial dispute exists with Ecuador and has shown himself to be flexible. I think the topic deserves an explanation.

[De la Puente] From the moment President Fujimori and former Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja established a mechanism for consultation and subsequently for exchange, relations with Ecuador have undergone an extraordinarily positive change. For the first time in many years —I think it was the first time—a Peruvian president went to Ecuador, and the Ecuadoran people gave him the clearest signals of what the possibilities of final integration mean.

Ecuadoreans took to the streets spontaneously and enthusiastically to give the president a warm, glad welcome. That sentiment also manifested itself during President Duran-Ballen's swearing-in ceremony when, in a rather unusual action in the field of diplomacy, he interrupted his speech, left the podium, and he and Fujimori embraced in a truly spontaneous gesture that showed extraordinary human sensitivity. He told Fujimori: You and I have the future laid out for us to find a final solution to the problems of the past.

During a subsequent private visit in Caraquez Bay, where we visited at the kind invitation of President Duran-Ballen, the people there—it could have been the people of Cochimbote, Chorrillos, or any of our towns—turned out as if a brother or the city's favorite son had arrived. You cannot image what the affection of Ecuadoreans means. Where is my impression in this case leading? The Ecuadoran people want a final rapprochement with Peru. The Peruvian people will demonstrate that when President Duran-Ballen arrives in Lima on an official visit during the first half of this year. The people of Peru will turn out to tell him: Welcome, friend. We are one.

What remains for the governments to do? The governments must act professionally with respect for each other's sovereignty but with imaginative and modern formulas to seek solutions so the two countries can become one, integrate, work together, establish enterprises, strengthen bilateral border aspects, create industrial development zones, and use the resources nature has given us but that are now lying unused because we spend more money guarding borders militarily than in building schools, production centers, or health centers or in creating possibilities for development. That is why we must not get into what others said or did not say or things that must be clarified, because that will dampen a very cordial relationship. I understand that in some cases international news agencies take some remarks as something that has been said or established, or as if conditions had already been discussed. Regarding the specific case of relations with Ecuador, the two governments are greatly committed to seeking a final integration formula. This must first be debated by the Congress and the public. We cannot make decisions without consultations, but through a referendum.

[Vargas] The friendly meetings...

[De la Puente, interrupting] The foreign ministers....[pauses] The presidents agreed during the friendly private visit to Caraquez Bay that the foreign ministers should work every day if necessary to find specific proposals for a better solution to all the things that should bind us forever. [passage omitted]

[Salazar] Several months ago Peru, the whole country, awoke from its pessimism about the police force with great hope because it discovered that the police organization was efficient. That hope was personified by General Antonio Ketin Vidal. Why was he replaced?

[De la Puente] He was promoted, not replaced.

[Salazar] Yes, but that is still a change.

[De la Puente] We promoted him, sir, and a promotion means protection and encouragement as well. Gen. Ketin Vidal, who is a first-rate police force professional, was promoted to lieutenant general and is the youngest soldier to be promoted to such a high rank. He is now third in the chain of command when he used to be the chief of a unit within the overall police organization. Consequently, no one can think this is a demotion or criticism of the work of a man who has burdened his life to safeguard the country's destiny. This is a promotion to encourage him, an award for a job well done. Gen. Ketin Vidal has the president's complete confidence and is now the third highest ranking officer, hardly two months after receiving the rank of lieutenant general of the police. [passage omitted]

[Morelli] Mr. Minister, I would like to ask about your successful trip to Chile. During your talks with the Chilean foreign minister, did you discuss ties or relations between the Peruvian and Chilean Armed Forces? There are very interesting meetings every year between members of the armed forces of each country, but they only discuss promoting mutual trust. This is all very interesting, but they ought to move on to more important issues. The Ayacucho Statement was signed in 1974, and further work was carried out later at an Andean regional base, but it was then abandoned like so many other things. Do you see the possibility of working together in the future, perhaps to improve the exchange of information on weapons purchasing, toward weapons control later on, or other issues?

[De la Puente] Within the terms of the joint press statement that the two foreign ministers released to the local and international public, there is a specific passage that states, and I quote: The two foreign ministers recognized the fluid manner in which the annual meetings between the high military commands of the Armed

Forces of both countries are carried out, as such meetings contribute to an atmosphere of mutual trust. The next meeting will take place in Santiago in August 1993.

There has been a great degree of closeness and interrelationship during these meetings, which I consider very positive. When the president discussed relations with Ecuador, he pointed out how beneficial it would be for our developing countries to divert the resources we now use to defend our borders, maintain our war forces, and buy weapons—which are very expensive and only benefit the large weapons factories—toward building schools, promoting development, and creating jobs. I have told the Chileans that it would be extraordinarily positive for us to see the new funds now used to protect ourselves from our brothers being put to work to produce for our brothers. The next meeting in Santiago and all those to follow, incidentally, are nothing less than a true demonstration of cordiality between the two forces. Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas was generous enough to accept an invitation from our ambassador in Santiago and had only words of praise for his Peruvian counterpart, with whom he had met several times before. He said he would support the discussion of this issue at the next meeting, not only for the idea to grow stronger but for it to become a reality for both countries.

[Vargas] Mr. Minister, we thank you once again for coming to our program and giving us some foresight on Peruvian foreign policy in the coming months and some insight into the new cabinet.

Drug Traffickers Widen Highways for Airstrips

PY0801142393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Dec 92 p A3

[Text] Drug traffickers have doubled the construction of clandestine airstrips in jungle zones, particularly on the Marginal Highway and its branches, in response to the control exercised by the Air Force on the Upper Huallaga's most important airports.

Military intelligence services have detected nearly 70 of these airstrips in various stretches of that important highway, especially in the zones of Sion, Aucayacu, Campanilla, Huicungo, Pampa Hermosa, Saposoa and Aguaytia, and in San Martin and Ucayali Departments.

Overflying the zone you can observe stretches of approximately 1,000 meters long where the highway has been widened to serve as a "narco" landing strip.

EL COMERCIO reporters flying a helicopter witnessed this operation on an airstrip next to the Marginal Highway in the Crisnejas zone, near Uchiza: A tractor and various trucks were widening the highway without being disturbed.

Drug traffickers use this tactic near people or towns to cover their intentions and pretend they are implementing development or construction works.

"Narcos are very clever, and in this case we have our hands tied. We cannot bomb or destroy those airstrips because they are built on the Marginal Highway," an intelligence source told EL COMERCIO. The source recalled that a few months ago the DEA intended to destroy one of those airstrips by building cement walls in the shape of posts in them.

Weeks later, drug traffickers supported by Shining Path followers took the posts out, filled the holes, and put the posts back in place. Every time a plane wanted to land there, they would just move the posts to the side and then put them back in place later after the plane had taken off. It took U.S. agents a long time to discover they had been fooled. The agents then dropped their plans.

According to the sources, drug traffickers have even dared to widen Marginal Highway stretches near Army and Navy bases, such as the airstrip discovered in Aguaytia a few weeks ago.

"We can do very little because drug traffickers perform their work under the pretense of helping local towns and improving this important highway. Their operations take little time. They are carried out at night and under the protection of hundreds of strongly armed Shining Path militants," the officer explained.

Clandestine airstrips in jungle areas are also difficult to destroy because when the forces of order bomb them, peasants, who get high salaries to perform the job, quickly put them back into operation.

"We dynamite those airstrips with strong explosives but then we have to withdraw because we cannot leave our personnel guarding those terrorist-infected areas," a police officer said.

UK Official on Cooperation Against Drugs

PA0901042093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] British Minister [title as heard] William T. Garell-Jones, who is visiting our country, has said the UK will support Peru in its struggle against drug trafficking.

[Begin Garell-Jones recording] I think the struggle against drugs in Peru— which as you know is the world's largest coca producer—is a struggle and a war to which we are all committed. There will be no dramatic or immediate victories, but we must all continue the struggle.

During my visit here, I will announce several physical and technical donations as part of our cooperation with the Peruvian Government in its struggle against that scourge. [end recording]

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Discusses Relations With Spain

PY0901022993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Jan (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla today told EFE that relations with Spain will be one of the priorities of his administration, "because we enjoy great affinity, and the Spanish understand perfectly well our needs."

Abreu Bonilla, 47, was sworn in on 4 January as foreign minister, replacing Hector Gros Espiell.

On his first official international mission, the new minister will travel to Madrid on 10 January to participate the following day in the meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers.

"Uruguay has a state foreign policy that began during the past administration (1984-89) after 12 years of military regimes, and which will continue with the current administration," he said.

"Clear and well-defined respect for international law, self-determination of peoples, nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful solutions to controversies, respect for human rights, and the preservation of the environment are some of the pillars on which Uruguayan foreign policy is based, and we will continue along these lines," he said.

During an interview granted to EFE Abreu Bonilla said that Spain "plays a very important role in international cooperation with Uruguay," and remarked on the assistance agreements and treaties recently signed.

"Our wish is to broaden and deepen these relations," the Uruguayan minister said.

Abreu reported that he will meet next week in the Uruguayan Embassy in Madrid with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana; Inocencio Arias, secretary of state for international cooperation and Ibero-America; and his colleagues from the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) from Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.

"Spain is one of the priorities of Uruguayan foreign policy given our affinities and because it understands perfectly well our needs. The Spanish Government has supported several Uruguayan projects economically, and we wish to intensify these relations," Abreu Bonilla said.

Regarding the meeting among Ibero-American foreign ministers, Abreu Bonilla reported that the ratification of and search for progress in Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle's project of creating a Common Market of Knowledge will be a priority.

"In Madrid we will analyze the relationships among Ibero-American intellectuals and will search for ways in which the gap and the differences in scientific research between developed and developing countries might be reduced," he said.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that the OAS had accepted the Uruguayan proposal to be the seat of the Common Market of Knowledge, although a date for establishing it has not yet been set.

The Ibero-American ministers will discuss consulting with the International Court on the decision by certain countries to allow those sought by justice to be arrested abroad, disregarding international treaties and violating national sovereignties.

"The meeting has an open agenda," Abreu Bonilla said. He defined the Ibero-American foreign ministers' "summit" as "a forum to exchange opinions and to seek consensus in order to coordinate political positions and decisions about subjects of common interest."

Article Advocates Ending U.S. Blockade of Cuba

PY0801210593 Montevideo BRECHA in Spanish 30 Dec 92 p 5

[Article by Hector Rodriguez]

[Excerpts] On 31 December a new year begins, and one more anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution is celebrated. The banners of the Cuban Revolution were adorned with Jose Marti's ideals of freedom, independence, and social justice. The revolution confirmed its presence by defeating the forces of Fulgencio Batista's military dictatorship, and immediately began to pave the way for the implementation of the commitments made to the people which had been inscribed on the revolutionary banners. [passage omitted]

Cuba has implemented the agrarian reform called for by its people, but the Cuban Revolution's compliance with the commitments made to the people has resulted in various sorts of blockades and attacks, which are still in force and are being heroically faced by the Cuban people.

The so-called Torricelli Law lacks international legitimacy, and cannot disguise the long-standing criminal attitude maintained by successive U.S. administrations, to the detriment of the Cuban leaders and people. The most frequently invoked pretext against Cuba (the defense of so-called continental security in face of a Soviet attack) no longer exists, and convinces not even the most delirious reactionaries.

Recently the UN General Assembly extensively condemned the so-called Torricelli Law. In a world in which respect for international laws is a pragmatic necessity for the survival of countries such as ours, the blockade and economic embargo on Cuba must stop, as a way of contributing to the defense of all national sovereignties.

The calls for a formal democracy and for implementation of human rights are no longer valid, in that the U.S. Government blockades Cuba, a country which has

elected its authorities through secret ballot, while tolerating Haiti's military dictatorship which overthrew Jean Bertrand Aristides' democratically elected government.

For Latin America to recover its self-respect it must maintain the objective of ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba by 1993.

Venezuela

Ministry Returns Unused Credit to Treasury

PA0801162793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz sent a message to Comptroller General Jose Ramon Medina to inform him of the return to the National Treasury of the resources that were not used as pledged from Program 03, Certificate (partida) 97 for state security and public order expenses. The following is the text of Pinerua's message:

Caracas, 7 January 1993
Citizen Jose Ramon Medina, comptroller general of the Republic:
I am hereby fulfilling the pleasant duty of informing you that in accordance with Venezuelan Central Bank regulations, copies of which I have attached, on 6 January the ministry I direct returned to the National Treasury the amount of 239,895,413.50 bolivares under the heading of resources that were not used as pledged from Program 03, Certificate 97 for the Interior Ministry's state security and public order expenses during budget year 1992, and which up to the date returned were deposited in cash in a security box at the Venezuelan Central Bank in this Ministry's name.

The sum was returned in national and foreign currency as follows: in national currency, 225,623,136 bolivares; in foreign currency, $179,075.00. These figures coincide exactly with the surplus reported at the end of the year by the accounts of the special book I ordered opened on 10 March 1992, the date on which I took this office, and which serves now and will serve in the future to record the overall income and disbursements of our budgetary credit, popularly known as the Interior Ministry's secret expenses.

[Signed] Attentively, Luis Pinerua Ordaz, minister

OCI Director on Council of Ministers Meeting

PA0801020093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] On 7 January the Council of Ministers approved a retirement plan for former officers of the Intelligence and Prevention Services. The bill was submitted by Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz. The Council of Ministers approved changes to Instruction No. 17 on a partial reform of the reorganization of public institutions carried out by the Venezuelan Investment Fund.

Angel Zambrano, director of the Central Information Office [OCI], released the information. Zambrano said a resolution was approved for pharmaceutical product registration as requested by the Health and Development Ministries.

A company was created to produce a fluid densifier for oil well drilling, which will be implemented by the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana.

The OCI director also spoke about possible changes in the executive branch.

[Begin Zambrano recording] As of now there is no talk of massive dismissals. As the country knows—some of you have already reported it—the resignation of some cabinet members has been proposed. But it has not occurred. [end recording]

Army Commander Visits Posts on Colombian Border

PA1001210193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Army Commander Pedro Remigio Rangel Rojas visited border posts located in the southwestern sector of the Colombian-Venezuelan border. The general commander inspected the newly built border posts of Guajita, La Victoria, and La Charca, where policies for supplying basic services have been implemented.

This year the Army General Command has decided to resume surveillance operations on this stretch of the Venezuelan border in cooperation with other forces.

[Begin Rangel recording] The construction of various border posts in the area will be completed next month. This will contribute to the welfare of the region, compatible with the mission that is being accomplished by the Armed Forces in Venezuelan border regions. [end recording]

* Carabobo, Bolivar Governors on Foiled Coup

93SM0103B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p C26

[Article by Elba Romero Lopez and Iraima Gomez]

[Excerpts] Andres Velasquez, the governor of the state of Bolivar, has urged the political leadership to view the recent attempted coup as "a definitive lesson that can lead to progress in the search for a government that can really interpret and convey the wishes of the people."

Velasquez also said that "greatness, for a government leader, lies in knowing how to interpret, at the right moment, what the people want." This is why, he says, President Perez should submit to a referendum, so that the people can decide if they want him to remain in power.

He also urged that the recent rebellion not be taken as an excuse "to limit democratic freedoms or to launch ferocious repressive measures against the people."

In statements made to EL DIARIO DE CARACAS by telephone, Velasquez said that what happened was an announced event, and that the national executive branch, specifically the president, had gone so far as to state that no situation like what occurred 4 February would occur again.

"This shows that he continues to ignore the country. And since we understand the factors and the reasons leading to this situation, and since we know the country, there is nothing I can do but to categorically condemn politicians for persisting with their policy of turning a deaf ear, turning their backs on the people, refusing to correct injustices, and not wanting to correct them."

The governor of the state of Bolivar resumed his duties again yesterday when he learned of the emergency situation in existence since the early morning hours, and he announced that he would remain at his post until all was normal again.

The situation in that area was normal, Governor Velasquez himself reported. He further stated that there were only "a few skirmishes." He said only two arrests were made.

We asked if he believed that there will be a correction made now in the direction being pursued.

"Well, I do not allow myself to foster any illusions. But I do not expect this to be used as an excuse for launching restrictions on the democratic freedoms, such as freedom of expression, in the country, or any ferocious repression of the people.

"Greatness, for a government leader, lies in knowing how to interpret, at the right and proper moment, what the people want. And I maintain that Perez does not have the support of the people at this time. And if this is the case, what the president should do, if he wants to provide a great democratic lesson, is to agree to the referendum Causa R [Cause R] has been proposing. There cannot be a more democratic solution than this."

The Situation in Carabobo

Meanwhile, Henrique Salas Romer, the governor of the state of Carabobo, and also a member of the opposition, reported an "entirely normal situation. We had taken preventive steps, together with the Armed Forces, several days ago. They included very intensive patrolling of the city, and also actions designed to bring any irregularity, any unexpected situation, under control. And these measures prepared us very well."

He described a small disturbance at the University of Carabobo in which one person was injured as normal. "In this instance, Carabobo has enjoyed a calm different from the situation on 4 February. All of the branches of the Armed Forces have had the situation under control, and we were able, as a civil government, to preserve the public tranquillity."

Salas Romer came to Caracas on Thursday to attend the budget discussion scheduled for yesterday, but he was unable to return to his home state "either by the air route, which was under the control of the rebels, or had been, or by land, since the highway was blocked."

"There was no bombing here. What happened was that as the F-16's and F-14's flew in pursuit of a Tucano. They broke the sound barrier. That is what happened here, and it frightened many people." [passage omitted]

Salas Romer explained that he had announced several days ago that "the zero hour was on 27 November. This was because investigation of the irregular addition of 14 criminals to the rolls of the Carabobo police led to the discovery of postdated credentials. These documents identified these criminals as police agents as of 20 November, although they had been added to the rolls much earlier. They were not on police duty but were collecting wages on the basis of the credentials dated 20 November. We warned the national government about this specific matter, and proceeded with our own actions within the police force."

He said that the fact that this plot within the police organization was aborted prevented the occurrence of a series of attacks which would have involved the participation of the Carabobo police force. "One of these was described in the greatest detail by one of the new "agents," who decided to turn state's evidence and made a statement to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

"We believe that this reflects the convergence of extremist elements, both military and civilian, connected with the events of 4 February—I would say with a minority on the military side—and criminal elements, whose origins we are investigating and will be able to establish very soon. And all of this is nothing but a desperate effort to prevent the 6 December elections from being held, since it is believed in some circles that by giving democracy new life, the elections will enable the people to express their views. And this would mean the disappearance of certain political sectors from our national life." Salas Romer believes that there must be closer contact and better communication between the central government and the governors.

* General Discusses Foiled Coup, Chavez Video

93SM0102A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p D27

[Article by Carlos Roman Chalbaud]

[Text] Iquitos, Peru—Air Force General Francisco Visconti Osorio, one of the leaders of the attempted coup d'etat last 27 November, made a statement in Iquitos, Peru, the locality to which he had fled with 92 other

members of the military. He said that the only people unaware of what was going to happen that day were the members of the orthodox faction of AD [Democratic Action], the nondissident faction of COPEI [Social Christian Party], and the top government leadership, because the vast majority of the Venezuelan civilian world was aware of and sympathized with the coup.

Visconti Osorio denied having said that the writer Arturo Uslar Pietri had any connection with the 27 November events.

These statements were made in Iquitos, Peru, just 24 hours after the attempted coup last weekend. Visconti Osorio said that he did not know why a taped statement by Commander Hugo Chavez Frias was broadcast instead of a video cassette he and Vice Admiral Gruber Odreman had recorded. He insisted that he did not know the three individuals who took over the state television channel to address the people.

"The vast majority of the Venezuelan civilian population knew about and sympathized with the military coup we launched on 27 November, to the point that only the orthodox faction of Democratic Action, the nondissident sector of the COPEI, and the government leadership were unaware of it."

Visconti Osorio explained that following the events of 27 February 1989, members of the national Armed Forces began a process of reflection about the situation in the country and the actions being carried out by its leaders.

"Beginning with the 27 February massacre, a process of internal contemplation began within the Armed Forces. Many of us questioned our role in serving the people on behalf of the leaders of the system. Many of us asked ourselves whether it was right to massacre the people in order to continue to support a regime like the present one."

Visconti Osorio said that at that time, many in the military realized that they were prepared not only for military actionss, but also to provide solutions to the internal crisis within the Armed Forces and the country.

"We in the military saw that the pact for reform had never become more than a promise on paper, since even after the firing on 4 February, the announced changes remained nothing but announcements. And we saw how the government leadership had greatly deceived the citizens of Venezuela by rejecting the Constituent Assembly. However, we established a waiting period to allow Perez to correct matters. We restrained the movement a number of times, but nothing happened."

The Air Force general explained that the opportunity being offered to the president ended when he rejected Senator Pedro Pablo Aguilar's proposal that a third ballot card be offered, providing for a kind of plebiscite so that the people could say whether or not they wanted him to remain in his post as chief of state. The final decision was made on Sunday, when Marcel Granier talked with Aguilar and the Supreme Council decided not to add a third ballot card for the 6 December elections.

Chronology of the Coup

During our talk with General Francisco Visconti, he described his operations for us step by step. He said that the logistic preparations for the coup began on the afternoon of Thursday, 26 November, when the military and civilian participants agreed on what their missions would be.

On Friday, 27 November, at 0200, General Visconti Osorio visited various Army commands in Maracay, checking on whether everything was developing properly with the committed infantry troops.

At 0300, Visconti Osorio arrived at the Libertador Air Base. The officer standing guard, one who was committed to the movement, informed him that there was a minor problem in that Commander Paredes Nino and the other commanders were unexpectedly sleeping at the base. Visconti suspected that some information had been leaked.

At 0315, soldiers arrested General Paredes Nino, who told Visconti: "I imagined that they would come to get me."

At 0400, all of the pilots at the base were informed of the operational plan and were told that they were not obligated to fly.

At 0500 approximately, the air operations began. General Visconti reviewed the Bronco OV-10s, and 12 or 13 Hercules prepared to depart for an unspecified destination. Troops were also readied to support the operations in Caracas.

At 0530, the Broncos took off for Caracas to carry out maneuvers which, according to Visconti, were intended only for purposes of dissuasion. While checking the positions at the base, Visconti was surprised to see a videotape made by Commander Chavez being shown on a television screen. He did not understand what was happening, but continued to execute his plan.

At 0550, the pilots of the planes headed for an unannounced destination informed the general that there was no one, no troops, there, and that they were returning to the Libertador Base.

At 0600, the Broncos overflew Caracas.

Between 0630 and 0700, two aircraft in the group which had not joined the movement took off from the Libertador Air Base. They were piloted by Captain La Barca Soto and Major Hector Diaz.

Between 0700 and 0800, the OV-10 aircraft made low passes over the La Carlota Air Base and Miraflores. They dropped no bombs, but released projectiles intended for dissuasive purposes over the loyal positions. The F-16's

overflew Caracas, and President Perez spoke to the nation, informing the people of the flight of these aircraft.

At 0800, General Francisco Visconti realized that all communication had been lost with the other military units in operation, while at the same time the electricity, water, and telephone service to the Libertador Base had been cut off.

Between 0800 and 0900, the Bronco OV-10s dropped industrial bombs at the eastern end of the runway at the La Carlota Air Base for the purpose of dissuading the loyal troops at that base.

At 1030, the loyal F-16 aircraft shot down the first Bronco, commanded by Lieutenant Carlos Miltic, as he prepared to land at the Libertador Base. According to the testimony of Miltic himself, the F-16 pilots loyal to Perez fired on him as he parachuted toward the ground after ejecting himself from the plane, and before his plane had exploded. In this connection, General Visconti says that "after this action, the pilots told me that they had to convert from a dissuasive posture to one of attack." Visconti described the action of this F-16 as murderous, and ordered the first bombing of Caracas.

At 1100, the Broncos dropped 200-pound bombs on the defense positions of the Miraflores Palace. At the same time, they dropped a bomb that had not been activated in front of Ipostel, on Urdaneta Avenue. This action, according to General Visconti, was for purposes of intimidation. Two Broncos were shot down over Barquisimeto. Another was shot down over the La Carlota Air Base itself. Its pilot ejected and was captured. The planes shot down now numbered four.

At 1200, the skies over Caracas were free of planes for the first time since 0600.

At 1300, two F-16's joined the rebel forces. They flew to Caracas and fired machine guns at the Miraflores Palace.

At 1330, a T2D aircraft took off for Caracas. It made a high-speed pass over the Avila foothills and overflew the La Carlota Air Base.

At 1400, loyal troops and tanks advanced on the Libertador Air Base.

At 1430, the loyal troops launched an attack, taking shelter in homes and the hospital, as General Visconti Osorio points out. The pilots of the OV-10's asked their commander for authorization to bomb the armored column. Visconti responded "no bombing," in view of the large number of civilians in the area.

At 1500, the loyal troops were gaining ground, and they launched an attack on the Libertador Base, the last rebel redoubt. General Visconti, who was now thinking of surrendering, ran toward the southern area of the base, where he saw that the loyal tanks and troops were breaking through the final line of defense.

The rebel officers were seized with panic.

"Call the Hercules pilots and tell them to take out the engines of two of the aircraft." Only one was left operational. The F-16 pilots who found themselves unable to take off abandoned the disabled planes and ran after the Hercules C-130, which was already moving down the runway, under fire.

Other rebel officers tried to escape in several Super Puma helicopters, but they were later arrested in the southern part of Venezuela.

At 1530, it was announced in Caracas that the rebellion was under control.

At 1600, the pilots of the C-130 asked General Visconti what their destination was. He told them that it was Peru. The pilots objected that they had no flight plan. General Visconti, who is familiar with Venezuelan territory, replied: "I order you to fly as far as the frontier." Heading toward Peru, they crossed over Colombian jungle territory.

At 1700, the FAV [Venezuelan Air Force] Hercules C-130, with 96 Venezuelan military personnel on board, entered into Peruvian airspace from the north. On approaching the airport at Iquitos, an Amazon town inaccessible except by air, the pilots declared an emergency, claiming hydraulic problems with the number one engine. We were told this by the air traffic controller who was on duty in Iquitos at that time.

The plane landed and parked in front of the terminal. The engines were shut down. The authorities, who had now been informed of the unexpected visitors' arrival, surrounded the plane, from which only General Visconti emerged.

At 1800, the 96 Venezuelans were taken into the town of Iquitos, located 15 kilometers from the airport. The officers were accommodated in the tourist hotel, and the other military personnel were put up at the Hotel Europa.

* Cross Section of Society Favors Voting

93SM0102C Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 1 Dec 92 p C10

[Article by Carolina Paez]

[Excerpts] Never before has there been a dilemma that has preoccupied the national public to the extent that the 6 December electoral process has. There have been many predictions made about the possible abstention rate. With a view to establishing what the citizens think, EDC [EL DIARIO DE CARACAS] undertook a survey at the Capitolio Subway Station exit. All 15 individuals questioned said that they will vote in the elections, although some could not identify the gubernatorial, mayoral, and city council candidates, or could not describe the voting procedure. Some admitted they had made their decisions based on the events of 27 November.

The Questions Asked

"Will you vote in the coming regional elections?"

"When did you decide this, and why?"

"Are you familiar with the candidates?"

"Do you know what mechanism will be used to choose the new government leaders?"

Maria Luisa Gascue

This individual is a teacher who expressed the view that "voting is the only way of continuing democracy." She said that what happened last Friday "is not the best way of changing the country."

She voted in the last elections, and does not feel responsible for the present crisis situation. "We have to begin to exercise our right to vote again in order to find government leaders who are less stubborn than President of the Republic Carlos Andres Perez."

In her view, the chief executive of the nation "is in a way responsible for what happened, because from the beginning, he should have agreed to the referendum proposal as a way of letting the people express their feelings."

She expressed the view that the people of Venezuela must not waste the opportunity offered them to elect their municipal representatives by means of a democratic process. With regard to the presidency, she said that "the best thing would be to wait for the next election in order to achieve everything by peaceful means."

Victor Suarez

He is a law student who believes that the only right way to change the country is through the electoral process. Yesterday, however, he had not yet recovered from his surprise at the violent events resulting from the attempted coup last Friday.

Moreover, he expressed the belief that "it is more important now than ever for citizens to go to the voting booths to cast their votes, as the only way of expressing their ideas."

His polling place is in the Santa Rosalia parish, but he is completely unfamiliar with the voting process. "Insufficient information has been provided to the people about the voting districts and locations."

He participated in the first mayoral and council elections, and the events of 27 November persuaded him of the need to exercise this right again. "Everyone should go to the polls."

Oswaldo Mendoza

He is a worker who said he will cast his vote this Sunday because "this is the only way of expressing oneself and making it known what one wants." "This is the best way of changing the government peacefully."

In his opinion, the events of 27 November should not have happened. "Many innocent lives were lost. The victims paid for the mistakes of others, and that is not right." He expressed the belief that "the armed path is not the proper one." For this reason, he assured us, he has always voted in the elections held in the country.

On this occasion, he will vote at the Bogota Churchyard School. He is unfamiliar with the mayoral and council candidates and he does not understand the new voting system. However, he appealed to all the citizens to go to the polls this Sunday and to exercise their right to vote.

Maria Antonia Fernandez

She is a housewife who did not vote in the last election "because I was sick." She answered the journalists' questions as she left the Capitolio Subway Station yesterday, saying that she will go to the polls this time if she can. However, she did not seem very certain that the elections would be held on Sunday. "Things here are very serious."

However, she added that "one thing is the same as the other. Things change very little." Just five days before the elections, she does not know who the majority of the candidates for the mayoral and council posts are. Nor is she familiar with the system which will be used when it comes to deciding for whom to vote.

She lives in the San Juan parish, but is moving to Santa Rosalia this week. Her question is in which of the two districts she should vote.

Gladislao Jesus Farias

This individual, an ice-cream vendor, has heard on the television that it is necessary to vote, and this has motivated him to do so. He said that his decision to participate in the electoral process was not due to any sympathy for any candidate. On the contrary, "It is necessary to put each of them in his place." Farias said that he has always voted in the country's elections, "but with even more reason now, because what happened on Friday was not good. These last three days have been very difficult for me. I could not work on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. I pay 140 bolivares for rent, apart from food. And who will give me the money for this? And who will pay for the deaths of the innocent people? [passage omitted]

Eduvigis Garcia

He is an economist. He said that he will vote in the coming elections for the governors, mayors, and members of municipal and parochial councils, because "this is the only way of letting the government leaders know when we do not like something."

In his opinion, the tranquillity and well-being of the country should not be reestablished by means of a forceful coup such as that last Friday, 27 November. He was a member of the young generation in 1958, and attended the Jose Luis Fortoul High School, one of the

first to rebel against the dictatorial regime of Perez Jimenez, he said. But he explained that he does not approve of the recent attempted coup.

"Those who promote all these things are a gang of deceivers. The only thing they succeeded in doing was to destroy the relatively good image that existed in the minds of some people regarding the perpetrators of the earlier coup."

Garcia has exercised his right to vote in all of the country's elections, he told us. "There is no reason to make an exception this time. I know all the candidates for the mayoral and council posts in the zone, and although I am not very well-informed about the mechanism to be used in these elections, I suppose it will be the same as before."

Frank Garcia

He is a driver who said that "voting is a way of expressing oneself. I have come to realize the importance of exercising this right since the events of 27 November. I have not chosen a candidate, and I am unfamiliar with the system, but I am going to vote."

Tahiri Cobos

She is a history student at the Central University of Venezuela. She said that she will vote, and that she made this decision following the events that occurred last Friday, 27 November. "I did not plan to vote because I have seen the candidates on television, and they all offer the same thing but do nothing. However, I think that voting provides the only opportunity we have to punish these individuals and to safeguard democracy."

"What happened on Friday was just a slaughter. A peaceful solution is preferable to a coup d'etat. It is necessary to look for other alternatives, but only along the democratic path. We cannot let ourselves be dragged toward civil war," she added.

She knows about and is entirely familiar with the system to be used in the regional elections, but she did not express a preference for any of the candidates. "My dilemma now involves choosing the individuals for whom I will vote."

* Canache Mata Proposes Emergency Program

93SM0104A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p D4

[Article by Ascension Reyes R.]

[Excerpts] *The emergency program should include concerted action on prices, and a substantial increase in the list of basic market basket products, without neglecting a revision of the economic measures package.*

Carlos Canache Mata, leader of Democratic Action, is of the opinion that democracy has proven to have more strength than its adversaries had attributed to it.

"This second revolt against the stability of the system will be the 'swan song' of those who harbored hopes of overthrowing the constitutional order," he remarked. [passage omitted]

In Mata's view, this reveals that, apart from the differences and the harsh criticism regarding certain aspects of the economic policy, generated by social unrest, the Venezuelan people want to continue living in freedom and reject the "dictatorial night." [passage omitted]

Emergency Program

As part of a series of suggestions, Mata proposed that the national government reach an agreement with the country's fundamental sectors on a minimal emergency program that would, of course, entail a revision of some of the measures in the economic package.

For example, he thinks that there is an urgent need to cope with the extremely serious inflation problem and the undeniable rising cost of living. To achieve this, he recommends a concerted price system for the market basket products with protected prices, and an understanding reached with Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] to establish this price system for the goods and products in the basic market basket. Mata proposes that the concerted action on prices cover a six-month period as a minimum, with the understanding, of course, that this system would protect the business owning sector's profit margin. At the same time, there would be a guarantee that "speculation will not continue its old tricks, as has been evident until now."

On the other hand, he believes that all the political parties and the representatives of other sectors of national life should resume the method applied with good results during President Romulo Betancourt's government. Then, every time there were outbreaks of conspiracy and coups against democracy, Betancourt called for a televised roundtable discussion at Miraflores Palace to condemn the rebels. It was attended by individuals ranging from the cardinal to representatives of the leftist parties, if they had not chosen the path of subversion.

Mata concluded by stating that the necessary efforts must be made to resort to every possible exercise of imagination, and to take the pertinent precautions to save and "consolidate Venezuelan democracy; because if it is lost, Venezuela will be under the law of the jungle. It will be tyrannized by people without a message, who have nothing to offer us but force and violence."

* Paris Montesinos on Need for National Consensus

[Article by Iraima Gomez Ramirez and Alcides Castillo J.]

[Excerpts] The president of the National Congress, Pedro Paris Montesinos, met with the senators from the various political forces to approve the budget for fiscal

year 1993. Since it had been decided at a previous session to grant the budget constitutional urgency, it was approved in a single debate, after certain modifications by the Senate Finance Commission had been taken into account.

Among the modifications considered by the Congress in the 1993 budget are reductions of approximately 29.66 billion bolivares, and certain appropriations to be made totaling nearly a billion bolivares. [passage omitted]

The president of the Congress, Pedro Paris Montesinos, for his part, reported that, in addition to the 1993 budget, several laws that had been pending were considered.

"We also approved in a single debate, because it was given constitutional urgency as well, a public credit bill involving about 1.5 billion bolivares, to finance urgent spending required by the Army branch of the FAN [National Armed Forces]."

Furthermore, the Senate approved the partial amendment of the Housing Police Law; and, in a second debate, the law creating the Municipal Refuse Collection Institute's disbursing board, as well as the draft of an Organic Law on Agricultural Credit.

A Coup Due to Negligence and Indifference

With regard to the military and civilian revolt of this Friday, 27 November, the congressional president deplored acts of violence since 4 February, and also the fact that prominent figures had participated in this new coup attempt. They include Rear Admiral Hernan Gruber Odreman, who was the FAN's deputy inspector, and another rear admiral, as well as an Air Force general who had already been accused by the chief of the Libertador Air Base, General Juan Paredes Nino. "Such things are inexplicable. They are negligent acts committed possibly because of weaknesses to which people have succumbed, and they jeopardize the country's institutionality. Fortunately, most of those in the FAN have a high degree of conscientiousness, and did not join this new attempted coup, which relegated the country to situations that we thought had been surmounted many years ago."

When asked whether he thought that Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez was directly responsible for the acts that occurred this Friday, 27 November, he claimed not to know whether the defense chief bore a direct responsibility or not. However, he remarked that, in any case, "There was unquestionably a failure in the government's informational services, because I think that the FAN must have been on the alert after what happened on 4 February."

Theory of a Great National Accord Reconsidered

Analyzing the situation following the abortive coup this Friday, 27 November, planned in collusion with extreme leftist sectors such as Red Flag and Third Path, the congressional president, Paris Montesinos, claims that now more than ever the theory of a great national accord to make the country progress has been brought up for discussion nationally. "I think that the political sectors must give up many of their egotistical, private, and partisan positions, to join in a series of talks that will enable us to revive democracy and expand the channels for participation. At the same time, they should prompt us to set some goals, or a minimal program of action to ensure Venezuela's economic and social development. Because, if these accords are not achieved, the erosion of the political sector will worsen, and that would really be quite risky and serious."

The senator from Democratic Action, Reinaldo Leandro Mora, for his part, also shared the congressional president's theory on the need for reaching a sincere national understanding, "because the majority of the population is waiting for the political class to arrive at an accord that will enable us to defend our democratic institutionality." [passage omitted]

Guyana

Former Prime Minister Replies to Party Charges

FL0901191093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1753 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 9, CANA—Former Prime Minister Hamilton Green, at loggerheads with members of his party including ex-President Desmond Hoyte, has described charges levelled against him as slander, untruths, and garbage.

"Most of the accusations levelled against me consist of half-truths, untruths, slanders, and are libellous. I think you owe it to me to provide the names and, if possible, addresses of the purveyors of such garbage so that I may deal with the matter generally and, perhaps, in another forum," Green said in a letter to former Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid.

Reid is heading a special disciplinary committee which Green is scheduled to appear before next Wednesday. Green is accused of making public statements "impugning" the character of People's National Congress (PNC) leader Hoyte and of blaming Hoyte for the PNC's October 5 general elections defeat by the People's Progressive Party/Civic Alliance.

"An interesting point arises whether it is fair or if it conforms to the Constitution of Guyana that a committee that is apparently hand-picked should be appointed ad hoc to deal with a matter such as this," Green said.

"Indeed, I have not had the benefit of knowing who are the members of your committee," he told Reid.

A copy of the letter was made available to CANA.

Green recently stepped down as Hoyte's deputy in the PNC. It came after Hoyte announced a list of PNC parliamentarians that excluded Hoyte. [sentence as received] Green told reporters there had been philosophical differences between himself and Hoyte.